EXCLUSIVE THE 300 MOVIES TO SEE BEFORE YOU DIE

MAXIM

MAY 2008

THE ULTIMATE MOVIE ISSUE!

- Summer Blockbuster Cheat Sheet
- X-Files Sequel: Scully Reveals All!

STARRING

Elisha Cuthbert

THE SCREEN GODDESS NEXT DOOR

GOODFELLAS, WISEGUYS & GODFATHERS
On the Streets With the Modern Mob

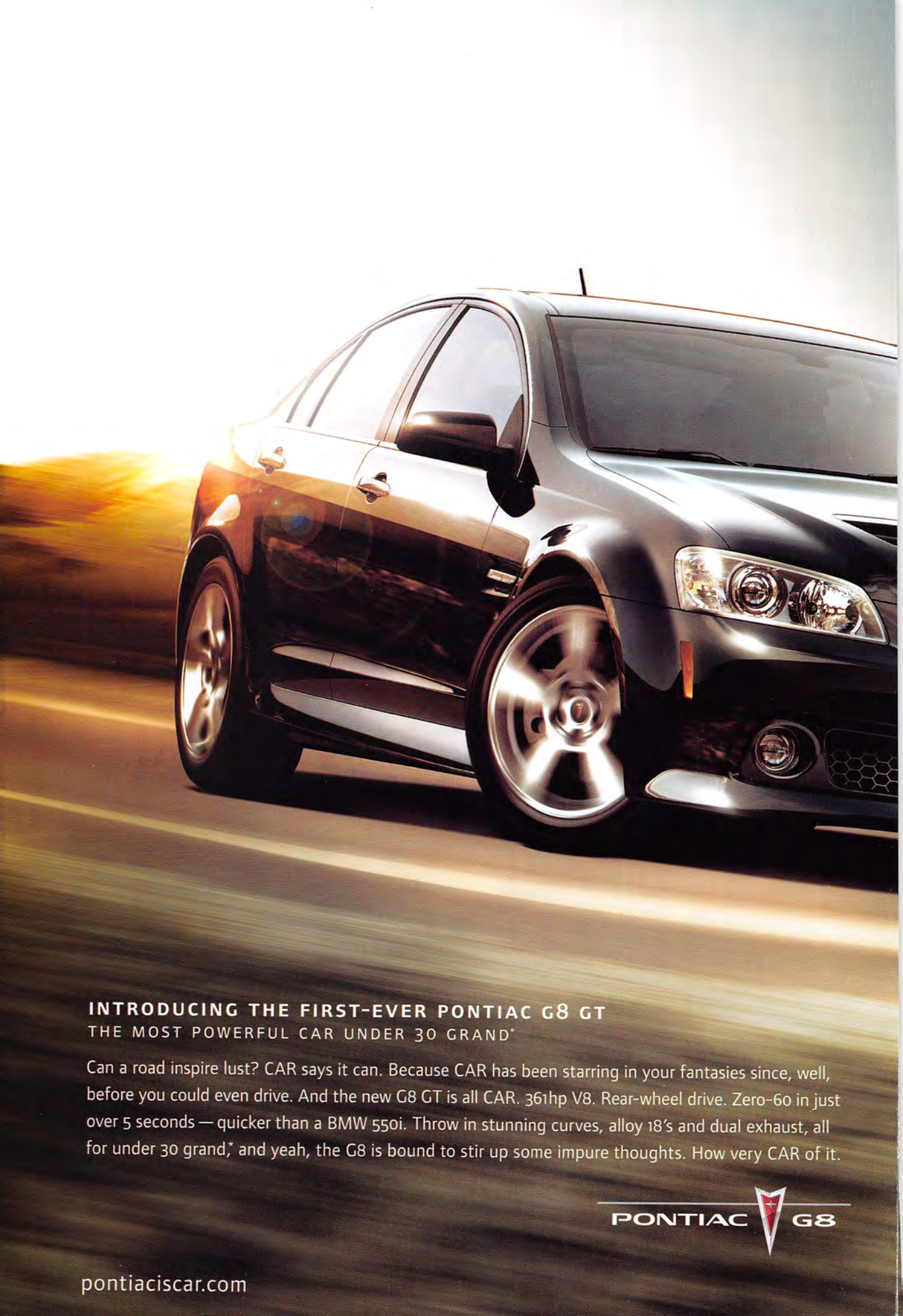
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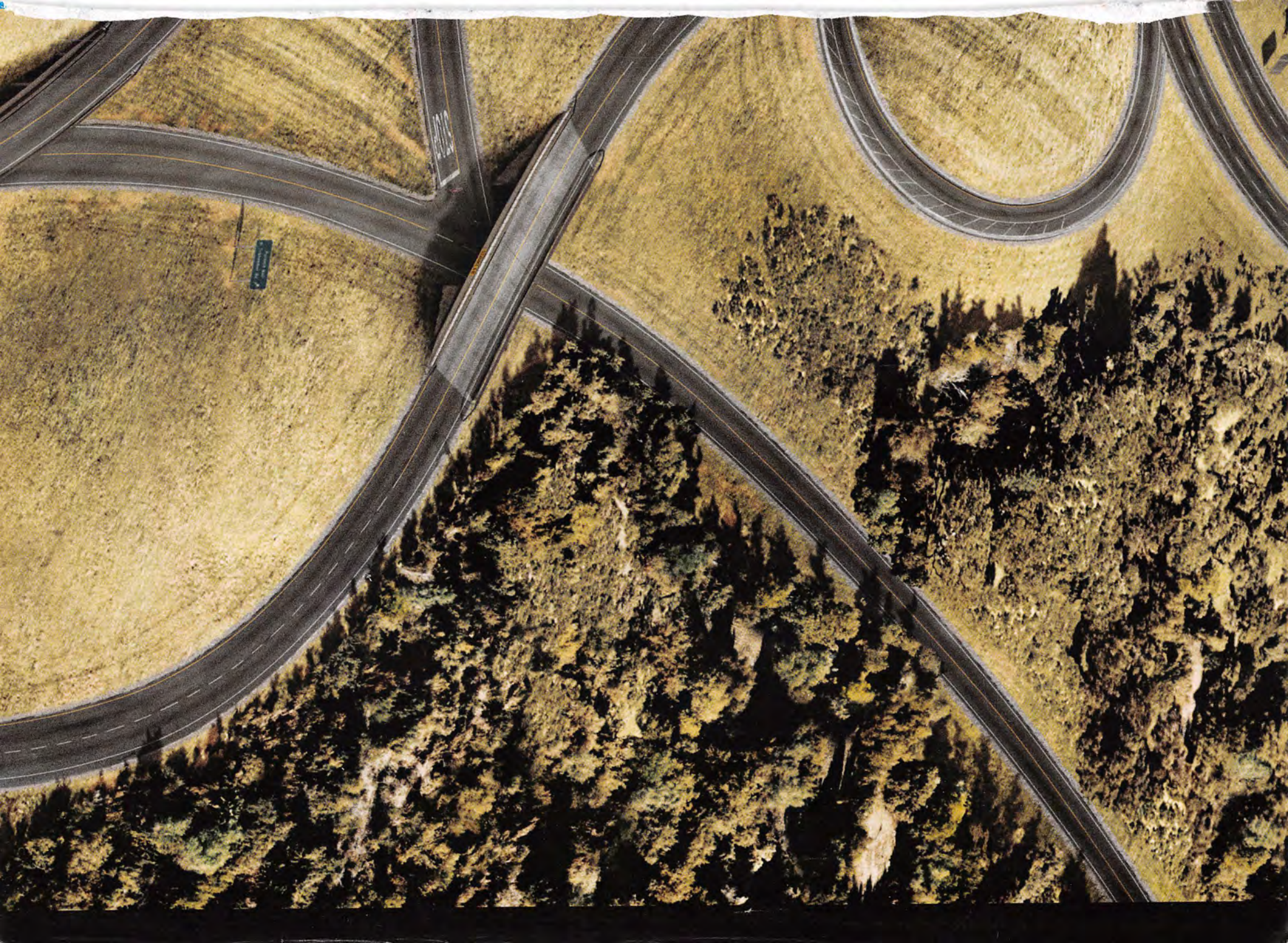
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On the Cover
Photograph, James White; styling, Tara Swennen at the Wall Group; hair, Jenny Cho at the Wall Group; makeup, Mai Quynh at the Wall Group; manicure, Marsha Bialo for China Glaze; prop styling, David Ross for Art-Mix Beauty; dress, Rosa Cha. This page: Sweater, Club Monaco; jeans, J. Brand.

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INCOMING: Paula Garcés' first time!



STUFF: The YES! Roadster owns the streets.



RATED: Get airborne with Olympic BMX stars!



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Style

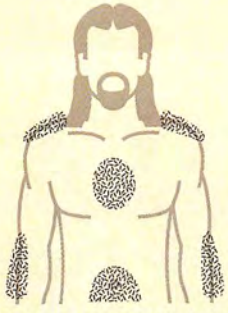
Class up your act with the 30 essential items of spring, then ditch the kabala bracelet and upgrade your wrist-wear with our expert watch guide.

146 The Decider
This month the Decider is on call to answer the nagging question: "Should You Get That Looked At?"

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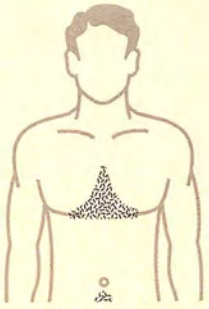
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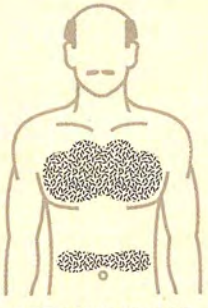
THE YOUNG AMERICAN

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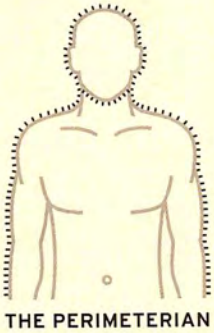
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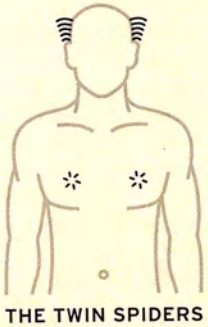
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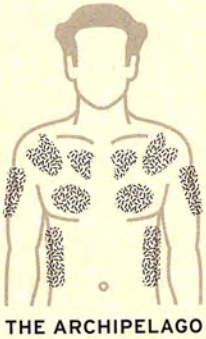
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REQUIRED VIEWING

Calling all opinionated cinephiles. Maxim.com needs your Will Ferrell and Sacha Baron Cohen referencing expertise!

Forget red carpets, rehab, and weekend grosses. When we say movies, we're talking about our favorite quotes, the coolest actors, and the highest body counts. After weeks of heated debate, we've compiled a list of the 300 Movies You Must See Before You Die (p. 84). It wasn't easy. And you know what? It's still not over.

Be Heard

After you've read our list, Netflixed the movies you haven't seen (may we recommend the seven featuring Carl Weathers?), and eaten your weight in Cheetos, go online to maxim.com and help us rank each of the 300 must-see movies. Is there a flick on the list you hate? Are there any glaring omissions? Just feeling a little lonely? Let us hear it in our Comments section. Just please be gentle. We bruise easily.

Watch

Maxim.com will also be loaded with classic trailers, unforgettable clips, and other walking, talking, ass-kicking movie moments for your viewing pleasure. How else will you be 100 percent sure you haven't been misquoting *The Godfather* all this time?

Prepare

If you want to focus on the future (no, not children—those guys are jerks), maxim.com has corralled trailers, photos, behind-the-scenes goodies, and other need-to-know information on the 2008 summer movies you can't miss. From the return of Indiana Jones to the reteaming of Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly, your summer has been scheduled. Notify friends and family accordingly.

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To explain why we devoted this issue to modern man's obsessional love of movies, we turned to the collected writings of a cherished former contributor. "It's the thrill ride of the summer!" he gushed—and, hey, the summer hasn't even started yet! "It's hot stuff!" he added. "Bone chilling and disturbing" and yet "a comic touchdown!" Final thoughts: "You'll actually stand up and cheer!" We couldn't have said it better ourselves, Pete. Movies touch us as no other art form can; they transform our lives. They make us consider race relations (*To Kill a Mockingbird*), force us to confront the inherent evil of man (*Schindler's List*), and teach us how to cope with the passing of a loved one (*Weekend at Bernie's* 1 and 2). Movies inform how we live and *why* we live, and all they ask in return is that we spend $8 for a small Coke at the concession stand.

But while most of us are conversant with Hitchcock and Apatow, there are major gaps in almost everyone's personal movie database that cause panic when facing an empty Netflix queue. So we locked ourselves away in the local pub and didn't leave until we came up with a definitive list of "The 300 Movies You Must See Before You Die!" (p.84). The selection process wasn't pretty. Feelings were hurt. Reputations were ruined. Babies were made. More than a few films wound up on the cutting room floor. A few notable staff rejects:

Bugsy Malone, nominated by deputy editor Chris Wilson: "A Prohibition-era gangster musical in which all the parts are played by children. Scott Baio's dance numbers still leave me breathless...and I don't care who knows!"

Rudy, nominated by senior editor Maria Fontoura: "The best slow clap in movie history."

Ass Blasters 12, nominated by art director Damian Wilkinson: "A lot of critics prefer *Ass Blasters* 11, but the theme of man's alienation in the modern world—and the ass blasting—are much stronger in 12."

Elsewhere in this movie-packed issue, you'll find the incredibly cool oral history of *True Romance*, a whip-cracking interview with Harrison Ford, a cheat sheet to the best (and worst) of this summer's blockbusters, and best of all, an insanely hot shoot with cover goddess Elisha Cuthbert.

OK, so let's dim the lights and start the show. My favorite: *Taxi Driver*, no contest. Draw your own conclusions.



James Kaminsky
Editorial Director

HERE IT IS! MAXIM: THE MOVIE

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MAXIM GOES TO THE MOVIES



Jude Law as morally bankrupt editor David Swanson, who will let nothing stand in his way as he chases the Pulitzer.



Jimmy Fallon as the crusading, sexually ambiguous senior editor Patrick Carone, who wants to make a difference.



Eva Mendes as Maria Fontoura, the hard-charging, tough-as-nails senior editor who loves them both.



Sarah Silverman as gum-snapping editorial assistant Amanda Thurshwell, who is smarter than the boss will ever be.



Steve Guttenberg as mysteriously aged intern Blaine McEvoy—what does he know, and can he be trusted to stay quiet?



Billy Joel as Chris Wilson, the alcoholic deputy editor who craves redemption—and the love of his long-lost sock puppet.



And **Jodie Foster** as Billy Sorrentino, the associate art director who's had the stolen documents under his ridiculous wig all along!

PHOTOGRAPH (KAMINSKY), NIGEL PARRY; GROOMING, JENNA MENARD

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GOING POSTAL

It's time to put on our latex gloves and pick through your soiled, handwritten letters!



We've been working the "ballerina gone bad" look for years.

Sin-Sational!

I was reading about the seven deadly sins in my Bible when I happened to see Avril Lavigne on *Maxim*'s March cover. Avril has got to be one of the deadliest sins out there. She's killer!

Craig Brabant via e-mail

We're also big fans of the seven deadlies, Craig. Though Envy has been a cruel mistress of late. We're referring to our feelings about the dad from TV's Little People, Big World. *Not only is he incredibly handsome—he's so small he can wear doll clothes!*

Auto Erotic

I want to commend you on the "Roadside Attraction" feature in your March issue. Danneel Harris looked incredibly sexy. You apparently know that many people love to see hot women in broken-down cars. I am a contributor for a Web site that caters to that fetish, and our customers come from all over the world!

Dave Harris (no relation) via e-mail

There's an old Mexican lady who lives in a rusted-out Dodge Stratus in the junkyard near our office. Your Web site should totally do a photo shoot! She'll do it for a can of sardines and some wart remover. Just be careful not to disturb the family of squirrels that live with her. They will chew your face off.

Hey, Nice Iraq!

I'm currently deployed in Iraq with the Fox Company "Outlaws" 1st Cavalry Division. We've been here 13 months now, and I must say we love your mag over here! We love the articles, the humor, and the women. Thanks for your support, and thanks for a great magazine.

SPC Robert W. Mullenix via e-mail

Our pleasure, soldier. It takes tremendous courage to put out this magazine—it's not like your cushy gig dodging IEDs in Iraq. Thank you for admitting that we are the real heroes. It means a lot.

Guts and Glory

That guide to the human body ["Guy's Anatomy," March] intrigued and fascinated me in ways I never thought possible. Awesome job.

Tim Stueben via e-mail

Thanks, Tim. We had to vivisect three interns just to shoot the damn thing. Your comments will be a great source of comfort to their grieving parents.

Dem's the Breaks

I was appalled you had Republican mouthpieces Sean Hannity and Ann Coulter contribute to the political article in the March issue ["D.C. Smackdown!"]. Shame on you, *Maxim*!

Reo Mannin Bountiful, UT

We welcome contributors of all political stripes, Reo. Stay tuned for six pages of steamy bikini pics of loyal Democrat Barbra Streisand romping on the beach!

LETTER OF THE MONTH

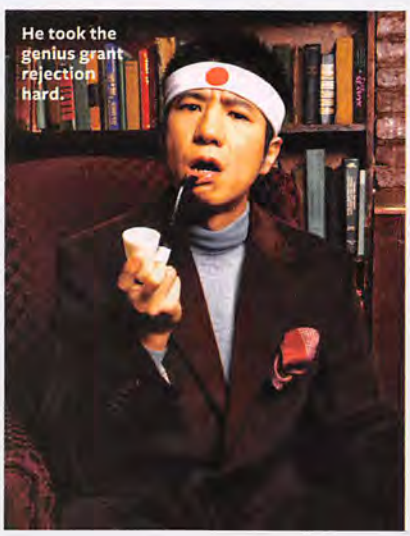


Going for the Gold

I have always wanted to be in *Maxim*. I am a 2008 Olympic hopeful who happens to be the number one ranked athlete in the country in my weight category in the sport of judo. I hope you're doing an Olympic issue featuring athletes, because I would love to be included.

Katie Mocco via e-mail

Congrats, Katie. You are now officially living the dream! Try not to choke anyone unconscious during your free vacation at the funtastic Maxim Bungalows in the Dominican Republic. And remember, the beach dress code is "Less is more." (We usually wear something high-cut and mesh.)



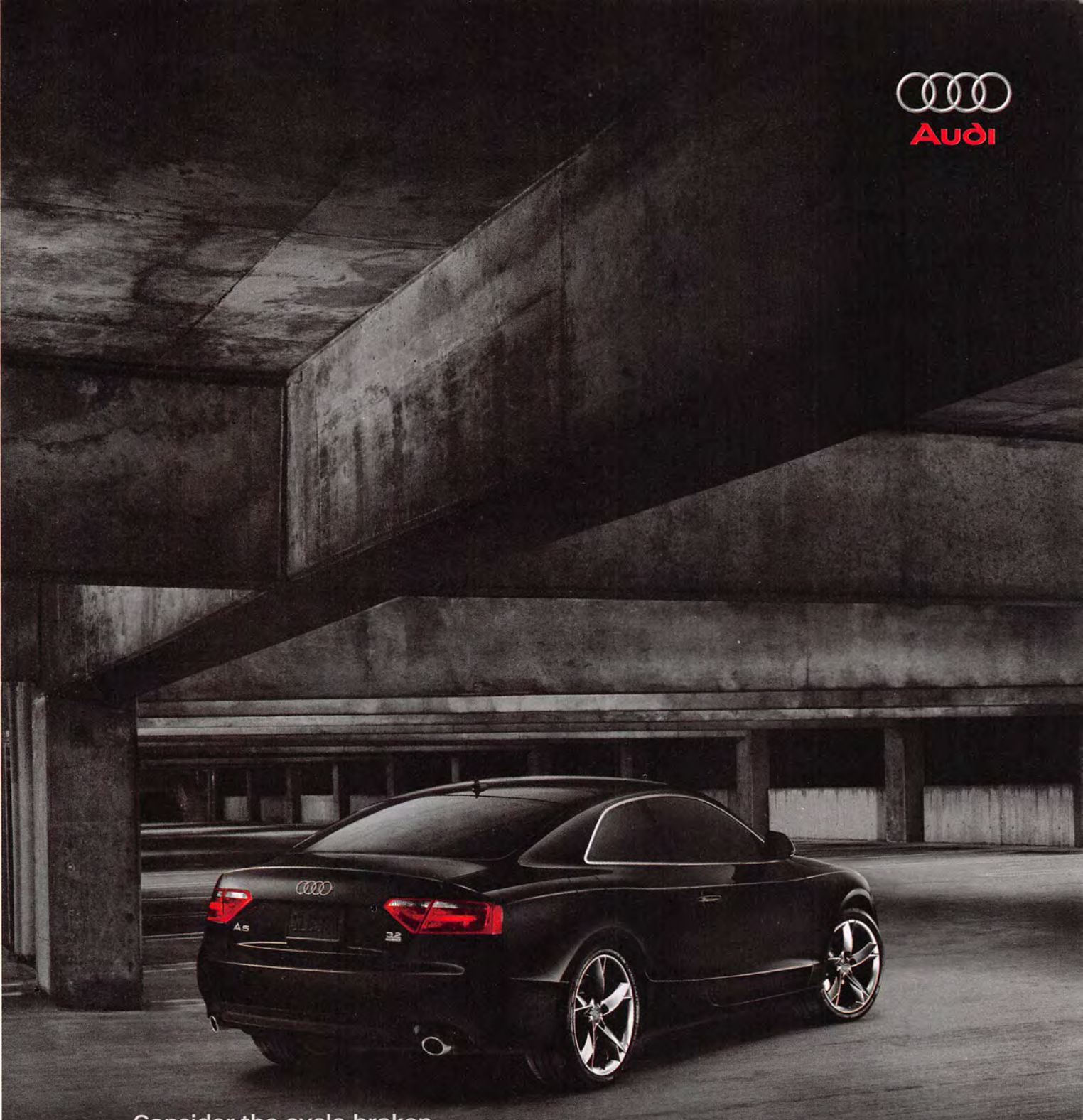
Hiroki Helps!

Real advice from our resident psycho.

Q: I went on a few dates with a girl, then ended things. But in the process I met one of her friends and we hit it off. How can I ask her out?
Steve Callahan via e-mail
Hiroki: You should stay 24 hours next to her house. Then make coincidence when you see: "Oh, you are here!" It's a perfect job, and you are laid. Then you can move into garage!

Q: My girlfriend brought me a duster coat—the kind worn by cowboys, Lorenzo Lamas, and school shooters. Do I have to rock this thing?
Justin Goldberg via e-mail
Hiroki: Why you wear if you don't like it? People stupid. Say, "I don't like this crap, and if you like it, I don't like you, too." She need to know your taste, so sex not boring like rice cake.

PHOTOGRAPH (AVRIL): NAOMI KALTMAN-STYLING, KAREN SHAPIRO-FASHION CONSULTING, LEAH SMITH, HAIR, ROBERT VETICA FOR MAGNET LA.COM; MAKEUP, DONALD SIMROCK FOR MARGARET MALDONADO.COM; SET DESIGN, DAVID ROSS FOR ART MIX; PHOTOGRAPH (HIROKI), MARIUS BUGGE; STYLING, ELLE STRAUSS FOR BA-REPS.COM; GROOMING, HAGEN LINSS FOR JEN ALLISON REPS; MANICURE, NAUSIL FOR MARK EDWARD, INC.; LOCATION, JAKE'S DILEMMA, NYCBESTBAR.COM. PHOTOGRAPH (JUDO): LOU DIGESARE/*REAL JUDO MAGAZINE*



Consider the cycle broken.

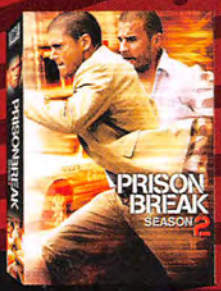
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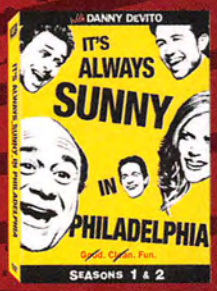
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BE A CONTROL FREAK



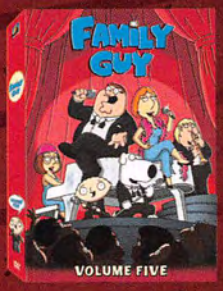
PRISON BREAK
SEASONS 1-2



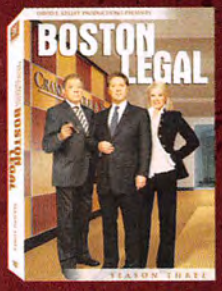
IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN PHILADELPHIA
SEASONS 1&2



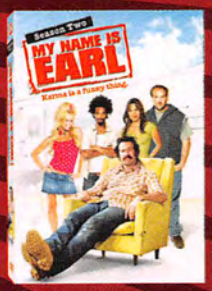
BONES
SEASONS 1-2



FAMILY GUY
VOLUMES 1-5



BOSTON LEGAL
SEASONS 1-3



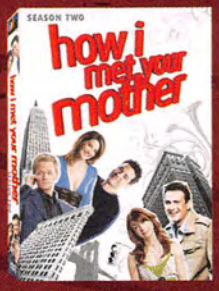
MY NAME IS EARL
SEASONS 1-2



THE UNIT
SEASONS 1-2



SHARK
SEASON 1



HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER
SEASONS 1-2



THE RICHES
SEASON 1

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INCOMING

{IF IT'S OUT THERE, IT'S IN HERE}

MY FIRST TIME

PAULA GARCÉS

Seen busting pervy perps as *The Shield*'s Officer Tina Hanlon and falling in love with a nerdy stoner in this month's *Harold & Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay*, Paula Garcés always brings the heat. Listen in as she shares her most memorable first experiences.

First Untrue Internet Rumor
I don't know where or why this started, but for some reason people think I was pursuing a career in kickboxing. It makes me chuckle anytime someone mentions it.

First Hollywood Battle
I fought really hard for my part on *The Shield*. They wanted Tina to be a butch black girl, and that's how all the other actresses looked. It was me against five other girls, so that motivated me. I had underdog syndrome.

First Reaction to Being Labeled a Sex Symbol
I fool them all. If they only knew how geeky and uncoordinated I am!

First Shady Deal
CSI: Miami offered me a chance to do a couple of episodes with the possibility that it could become a recurring role. So I told them, "Sure, whatever you guys want me to do." When they told me my character was a stripper with a heart of gold, I was like, "Damn! Maybe I should have asked more questions!"

First On-Screen Sex Education
There was a *Shield* episode that had to do with glory holes. I had no idea they even existed! The show is very educational in that way. It always seems like the nastier the scene, the more appropriate they find it for Tina.—*Mike Olson*



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANTOINE VERGLAS

La Perla bra and thong
Vince cardigan


“
IT ALWAYS SEEMS LIKE
THE NASTIER THE SCENE, THE
MORE APPROPRIATE THEY
FIND IT FOR ME.
”

MAXIM'S INFERNO

May's gonna be one hellish month.



1 Limbo

"People can have the same dog for their whole lives," says a rep for RNL Bio, a South Korean company that clones puppies for $150,000. Sounds expensive, but can you put a price tag on the joy Rover brings you? Um, yes, you can.

2 The Lustful

Investors ponied up a reported $20 million for hotornot.com to make it the cornerstone of a new company called Hot or Not Media. We're guessing the company will be dedicated to either exploiting women or cancer research.

3 The Gluttonous

Carlsberg A/S—Scandinavia's biggest brewer—has introduced Vintage No. 1, the world's most expensive beer. With hints of prune, caramel, and vanilla, each bottle costs $400. Man, the price of prune hints is ridiculous these days!

4 The Greedy

The cash cow that is *American Idol* hits Disney's Hollywood Studios later this year for a new attraction that'll let guests sing for the chance to cut the line at next season's auditions. Sad, but it beats a trip into Paula Abdul's Tunnel of Love.

5 The Sullen

The WNBA tips off May 17 for its 12th year. This season features some new twists (an expansion team in Atlanta) along with some old standbys (approximately one player per team you would consider making out with on a dare).

6 The Heretics

Holy blasphemy! Buy yourself a crucifix-shaped MP3 player and you can personalize the soundtrack for your trip to hell. Plunk down $59 and piss off the (possible) Son of God at crossmp3player.com.

7 The Violent

The new AA-12, Military Police Systems' automatic 12-gauge shotgun, fires 300 rounds per minute Tommy gun–style with almost no recoil. Enemies of the state: You might want to start soiling yourselves now.

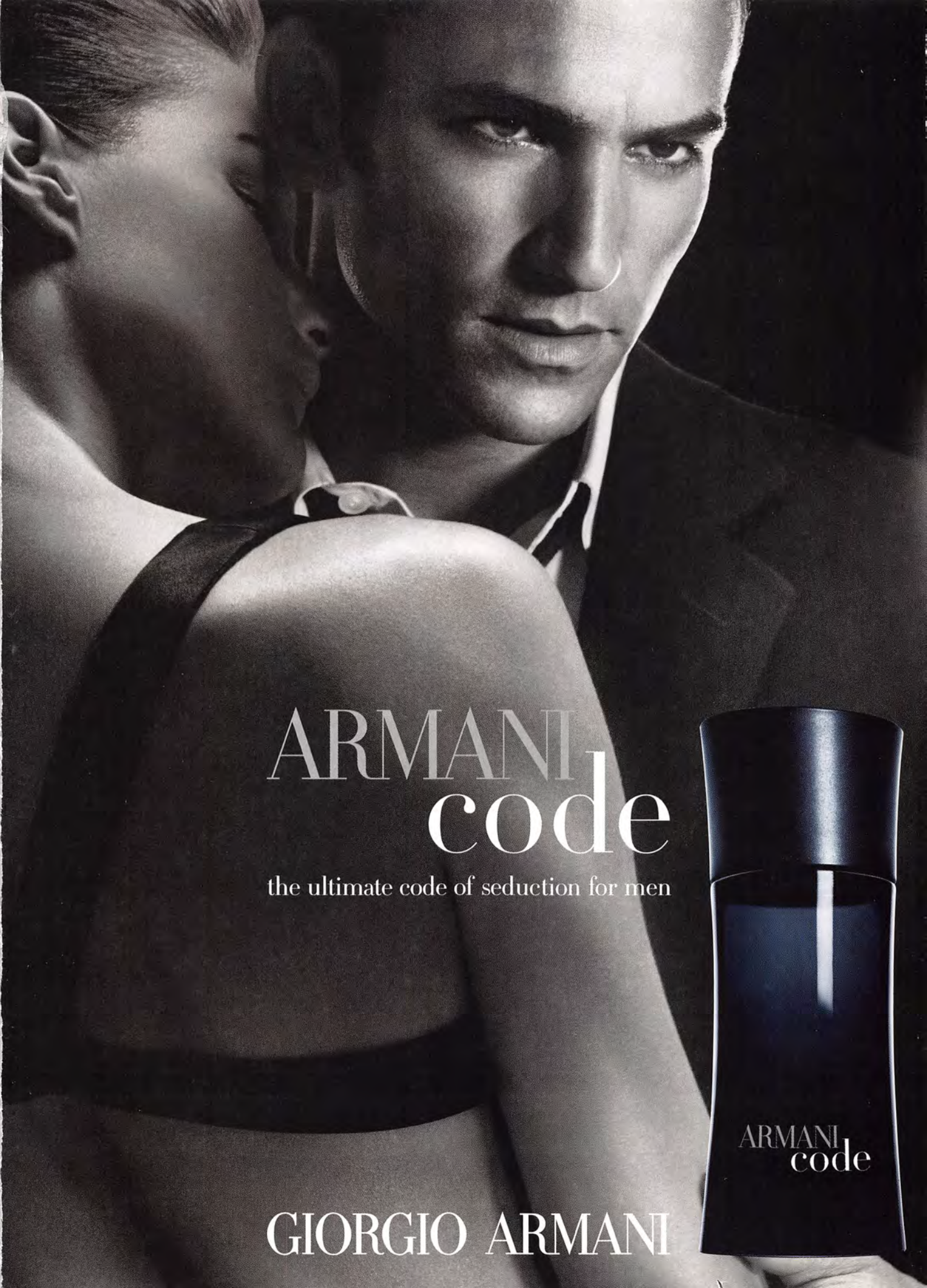
8 The Fraudulent

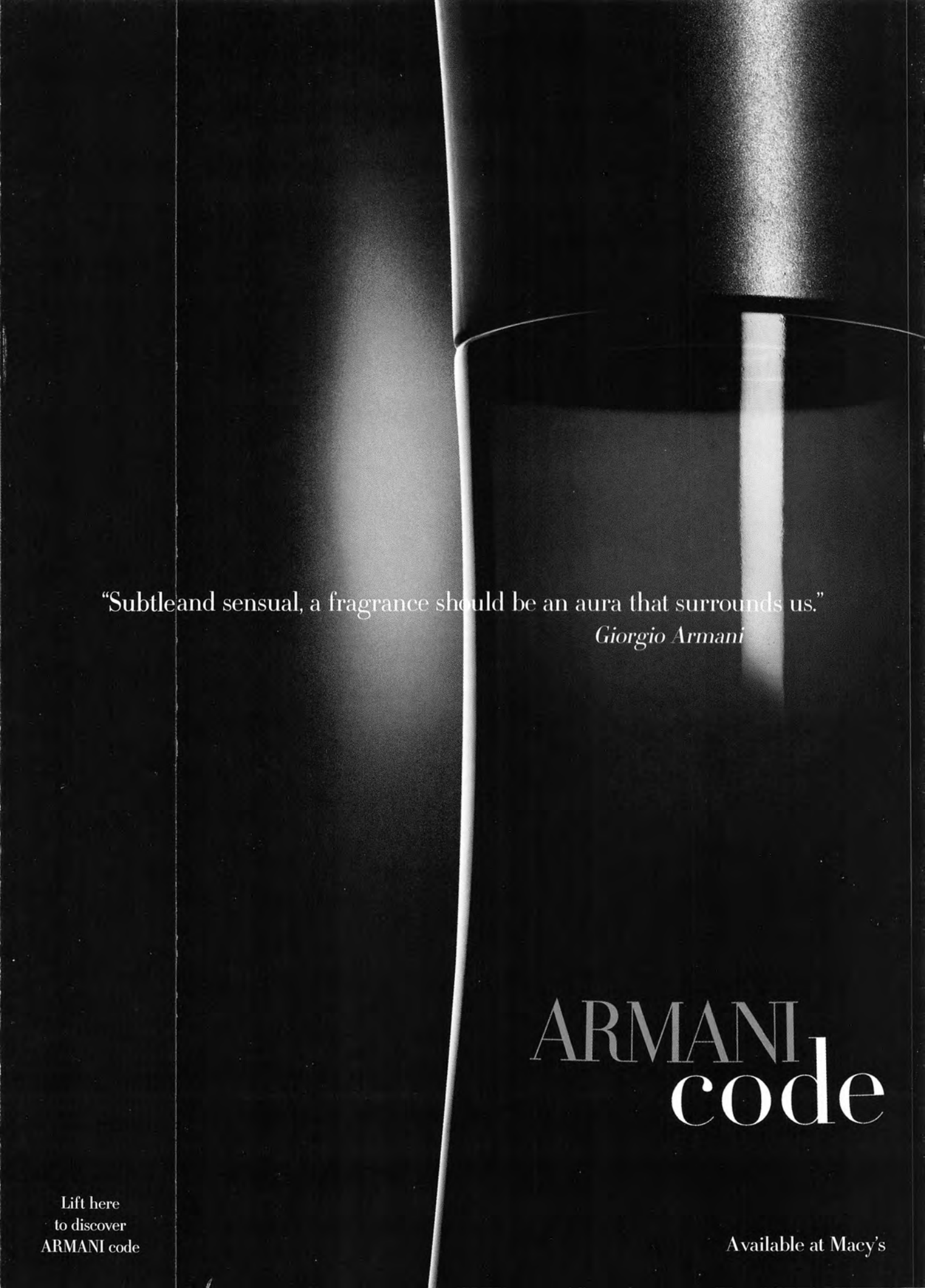
The makers of the Airbus A380 can talk about turning their double-decker airplane into a flying casino, but can it really compare to the salmonella-y buffets and cocktail waitress with stretch marks that you know and love? Doubtful.

9 The Traitors

MMA is no longer a plucky, blood-soaked underdog now that CBS has decided to air four Saturday night events per year in time slots once reserved for family programming like *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*. Ground 'n' pound, Mr. Grant!

ILLUSTRATION, SEAN MCCABE; PAULA GARCÉS PAGE: STYLING, KAREN SHAPIRO; HAIR, GIANNANDREA FOR NOUR/ARTISTS BY TIMOTHY PRIANO.COM; MAKEUP, JANE CHOI FOR MAC AT ARTWING N.Y.; PROP STYLING, JOEY EDWARDS


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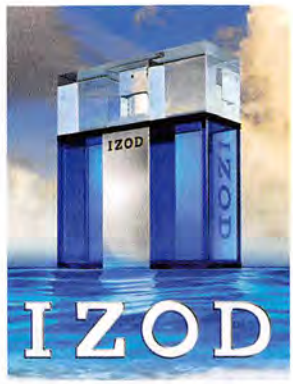
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SPEECH IMPEDIMENTS

It's graduation season! These C-list celebrity commencement speakers from last year will inspire you to tear up your diploma.

CELEBRITY	ADVICE THEY GAVE	ADVICE THEY SHOULD'VE GIVEN	GRADUATES LIKELY TO BECOME
 **Bob Barker** Drury	"Assume personal responsibility for your lives." 	"You don't want to know why I like my microphones so long and slim." 	Obsessed with the sex organs of pets. 
 **Whoopi Goldberg** Montclair State	"You have nothing to do except prove you are a viable human being." 	 "I hosted the Oscars four times. Now I snap up an invite from Montclair State. Listen to nothing I say."	Center squares. 
 **Matthew Fox** Columbia	"In defining the future...the safest choice probably will not be the best choice." 	"If your flight crashes on a deserted island, screw the plot twists—just start eating people." 	Lost. 
 **Julia Louis-Dreyfus** Northwestern	"Prepare yourself to do good. To create the noble and sublime." 	"Kramer is a terrible choice of a date to take to the MLK parade." 	People who sit by the phone waiting for Jerry to call. 

#6 IN A SERIES

Bacon Porn

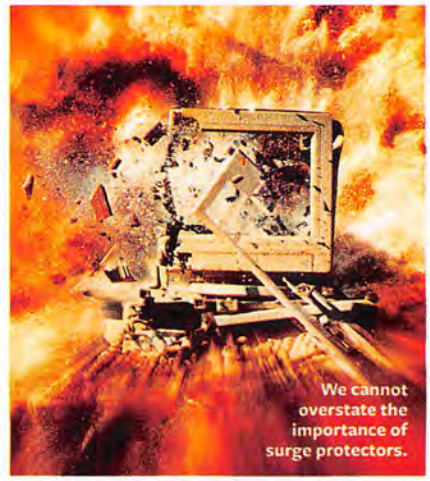
Dive into the bacon bowl!

An edible bowl made from the best food ever seemed like a no-brainer to our bacon brain trust. It's tastier than a taco salad shell or bread bowl, and filling it with eggs and cheese is a perfect way to start your morning and stop your heart. Foodie blog NotMartha.org recently described how to make it: Wrap bacon around the bottom of a large muffin pan and bake until crisp. Not hungry? Wear it as a hat!



Want a real treat? Fill it with bacon!

TRENDSTOPPING



We cannot overstate the importance of surge protectors.

E-Mail Bombs

A new form of Web-based terrorism will have you clawing at your eyeballs.

It used to be that your buddies e-mailed you Web links to something funny or mildly risqué, not an eye-melting abomination guaranteed to cause serious workplace shame. But such is the frightening phenomenon of e-mail bombs—links so lewd they could get you instantly fired (and possibly arrested) if you're caught recoiling from them in the office. More than just a gross-out site that can be quickly turned off, true e-mail bombs are rigged as viruses that prevent you from closing the offending window and force you to yank out your power cord to make the unspeakable images on go away. Just imagine if you opened "2 Girls 1 Cup" in your cubicle and couldn't turn off the horror show no matter how many of your coworkers within eyeshot began vomiting, and you get the idea. Hardcore gay sex is the preferred subject matter of e-bombs, which is epitomized by the infamous sourpatch.org. Click on it if you dare, but don't say we didn't warn you. You're about to become truly disgusted (or incredibly turned on!). *Maxim* hereby calls for an e-bomb cease-fire, so that once again we can all open strange links without fear. So if you get any shady-looking links from us, feel free to open them. It won't be anything nasty. We promise.

BIG NUMBER

53%

Number of Americans who have weekly sex, tying us with Nigeria for second most undersexed country in the world.

PHOTOGRAPH, SATOSHI (BACON)

Meet Vann.

eMusic

Vann digs the West Coast sound. But when he wants something completely different, he's all about eMusic. Because with over 2 million indie songs – and the ability to download them over his phone – he's always got the perfect track.



MySpace Mobile

Vann's got a lot of friends. So he's always getting texts when one of his friends posts something on MySpace. Or he's posting a pic from his phone. It's nonstop.

Sports

If he's not texting, Vann is checking his MEdia™ Net page for scores and updates – he's a full-on fanatic who's always up to date with what's going down in the league.

Video Share

Sometimes Vann shares a live rendition of his *I Am So Great* dance with his boy Jimmy while they catch up over the phone.

This is Vann's digital world.
You've never met him but now you know what he's like.



What can AT&T do for your digital world?℠
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ALL CHOKED UP

Fight Club author Chuck Palahniuk takes another swing at the big screen with an adaptation of *Choke*, his caper of a sex-addicted con man. But judging from the report he sent Maxim from the spooky set, truth is much stranger than fiction.

After filming wrapped on the movie *Fight Club* in 1998, the director, David Fincher, gave everyone in the cast and crew striped auto racing jackets with the 10 rules of Fight Club covertly sewn into the lining. Mine's still wrapped in plastic, buried in the writer's equivalent of a hope chest. Last year, when my novel *Choke* went into production as a film, the racing jacket got some company.

Director Clark Gregg's original idea was to give everyone stainless-steel butt beads engraved with the movie's title and the shooting start date. Every member of the cast and crew. But the budget ran short, so the new idea was to give everyone rubber butt beads, or plastic, strung together on chains or strings, black or pink or red plastic, sealed inside hanger cards. But the stores in Manhattan ran short. In all the uptown and midtown adult novelty shops, the walls were crowded with dildos and handcuffs, but they were empty of butt beads.

This is how I'm in the West Village, shopping for more butt beads, but not the kind with a white cotton cord. The clerk says those are only a novelty; after one use you'll never get the cord clean. Instead, she recommends the black rubber balls strung on a rubber cord. Not only will they not show dirt—they're also dishwasher-safe. I take her entire stock and ask if she has any more in storage.

My next stop is the Essex County Mental Hospital in N.J., which has been abandoned for the past six months. We're shooting much of the film here.

The 36 red brick buildings were designed by the architect who built the receiving hall at Ellis Island, and since the hospital relocated to a new facility, they are crowded by overgrown lawns and trees.

Today's call is for six in the evening, with filming till six tomorrow morning. Already fireflies are hovering in the knee-deep grass. Some film interns are lost in the asylum's subbasement Civil Defense fallout shelters, connected by miles of underground steam tunnels. Every few minutes they send camera phone photos of Satanic altars, rotting animal sacrifices, and burnt candles, which they stumble across deep in the dirt under us.

Because this was a mental hospital, any door might lock behind you, leaving you trapped in a hot, dusty ward or wing with barred windows, crowded with stained mattresses and jigsaw puzzles. Crew members disappear for hours until they're found, frantic. One Teamster won't leave his truck because of the old nurse people keep seeing, a gray-haired woman wearing a starched white cap and uniform who disappears midway down long hallways or into dead-end rooms.

Amid the mildew and wheelchairs and posted warnings about tuberculosis, it's hard to say which is more remarkable—the ghost of a nurse or the caterer who circulates, giving out pineapple sorbet, chocolate gelato, smoked salmon, and Red Bull.

After my errand for butt beads, [*Choke* star] Sam Rockwell inscribes one black rubber string: FOR CHUCK. OH, THAT I WERE A GLOVE UPON THAT HAND...THAT I MIGHT TOUCH THAT CHEEK. Shakespeare. *Romeo and Juliet*. Classy stuff. Inside my striped racing jacket, it only says, THE FIRST RULE OF FIGHT CLUB IS...

I've found a pad of blank prescription forms, so I'm asking Sam how to spell "Percocet."

Chuck Palahniuk's new book, *Snuff*, is out this month. *Choke* hits theaters in August.

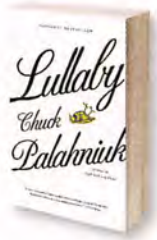
Good Luck Chuck!

The Cliffs Notes on three Palahniuk novels slated to hit the multiplex.

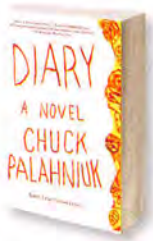
Survivor
A dark satire of instant-celebrity culture as told by a media-savvy suicide cultist who comandeers a 747 to tell his life story to the black box before the jet crashes. Message: Fame...Ain't it a bitch?



Lullaby
Troubled newspaper reporter discovers an ancient poem that kills people when he mentally recites it, then goes on a road trip to destroy every copy of it. Message: Information can be deadly.



Diary
An artist suffers from mysterious ailments while her husband is comatose after a suicide attempt on an eerie resort island. Message: The creative process can drive you bonkers.



PHOTOGRAPH BY FRANK W. OCKENFELS 3


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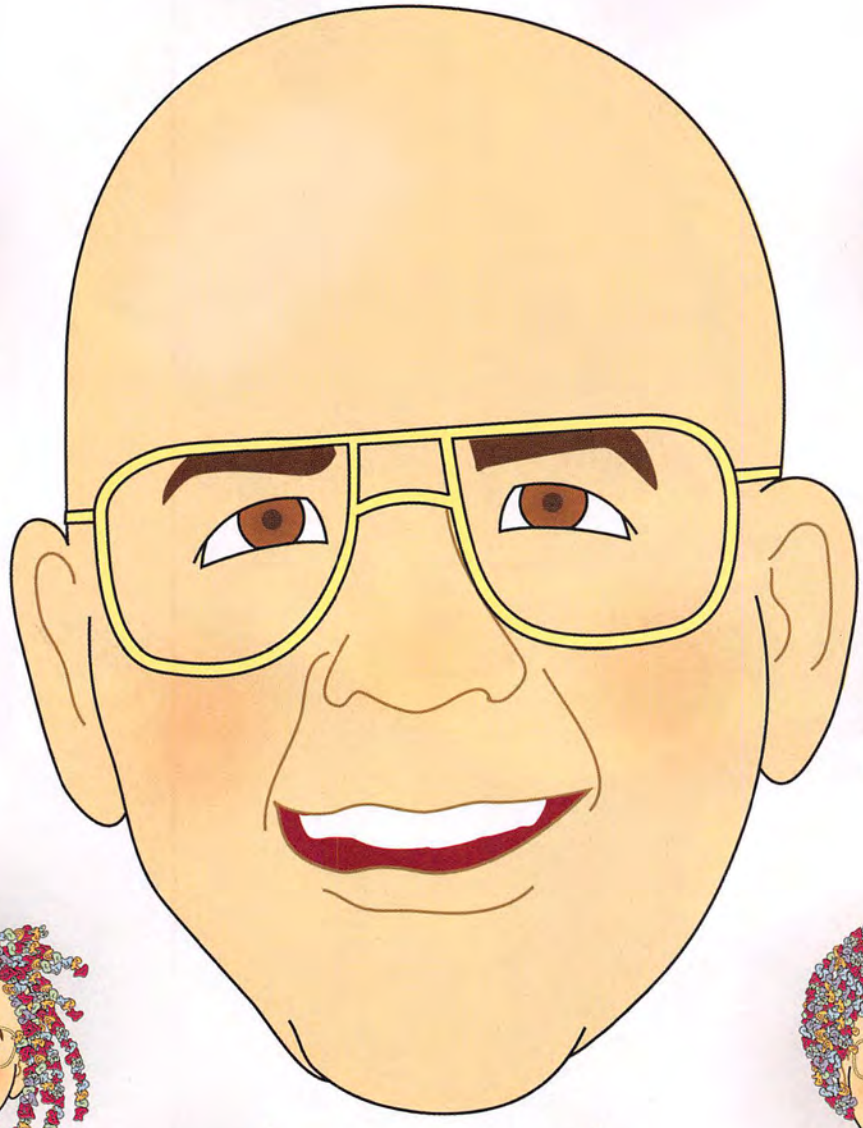
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KATE HUDSON

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You've dated a few famous actors since your split with what's-his-name, but from what we've read and heard, you're still searching for true love. Kate, we think it might be time you looked beyond weird-bearded blues rockers and rich Hollywood pretty boys and took a chance on a regular Joe.

Like maybe a caring but financially struggling men's magazine editor, who would totally move into your mansion, escort you to glitzy movie premieres, and give you killer foot massages every single night of your life? Sounds like heaven, right? Yeah, we thought you'd feel that way. We're heading to the airport now—see you in six hours. Fingers crossed *Fool's Gold* is the in-flight movie!

Love Ya
Maxim



Though a master of submarine warfare, the admiral had trouble being taken seriously.

PHOTOGRAPH: SPLASH NEWS; INSET: WARNER BROS./EVERETT COLLECTION

ASK MAXIM

Deconstruct your taxes, discover the world's oldest organism, and determine if you've gone totally psycho. You can thank us later!



Tom Cruise: Not a psychopath.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M A PSYCHOPATH?

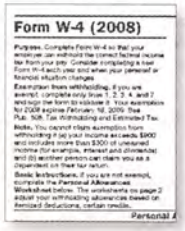
Orges Lupa, Yakima, WA

We often wonder the same thing when we're tying stray cats to the tracks of our model train set! The short answer is that you're probably not a maniac if you feel remorse or empathy. Mental health experts say psychopaths are typically created by a combination of tragic factors, like an already fragile brain coupled with an abusive home life. While some crafty cuckoos can mimic the expected emotional responses of a sane person, an examiner using the Hare PCL-R test (you've heard of it, right?) usually roots them out. So, Orges, don't agree to one of these exams unless you want to spend the rest of your life in a rubber room.

WHAT THE HELL DO MY FEDERAL TAX DOLLARS ACTUALLY PAY FOR?

Adam Belachou, Portland, ME

Out of an estimated federal tax take of $938.7 billion, the biggest chunk—$337.9 billion—funds Social Security, Medicare, and other retirement benefits. That's right, most of your taxes help our grayheaded friends buy giant sunglasses, the Clapper, and prune juice. After that $215.9 billion pumps up our national defense, $178.3 billion pays for assorted social programs, $112.6 billion covers student loans, $75.1 billion pays the interest on our $9.4 trillion federal debt, and $18.8 billion funds federal law enforcement agencies. Happy now?



Form W-4 (2008)

Purpose. Complete Form W-4 so that your employer can withhold the correct federal income tax from your pay. Consider completing a new Form W-4 each year and when your personal or financial situation changes.

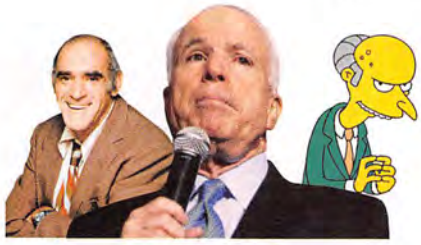
Exemption from withholding. If you are exempt, complete only lines 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 and sign the form to validate it. Your exemption for 2008 expires February 16, 2009. See Pub. 505, Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax.

Note. You cannot claim exemption from withholding if (a) your income exceeds $900 and includes more than $300 of unearned income (for example, interest and dividends) and (b) another person can claim you as a dependent on their tax return.

Basic instructions. If you are not exempt, complete the Personal Allowances Worksheet below. The worksheets on page 2 adjust your withholding allowances based on itemized deductions, certain credits,

Personal A

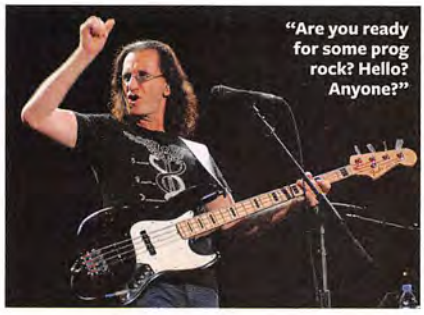
McCain considers two young bucks for VP.



WHAT'S THE OLDEST LIVING THING?

Rob Scussel, Baltimore, MD

Many experts say it's some 600,000-year-old bacteria encased in Siberian permafrost. "But because bacteria go into a slow-motion dormancy when chilled," says Dr. Tyler Volk, director of environmental science at New York University, "there's controversy over whether or not that qualifies as living." Volk believes the most deserving of the AARP's ultimate Gold Card is either the Methuselah tree—a bristlecone pine hidden somewhere in California—or a massive 30-acre colony of *Armillaria bulbosa,* a common mold, near Crystal Falls, Michigan. What's with the tie? Scientists know the Methuselah has been around for 5,000 years, but can only guess a range of 1,500 to 10,000 years for the fungus. (Meanwhile, we've had a quart of Kung Pao chicken brewing in the office fridge for a good 10 years. Where's our Ph.D.?)



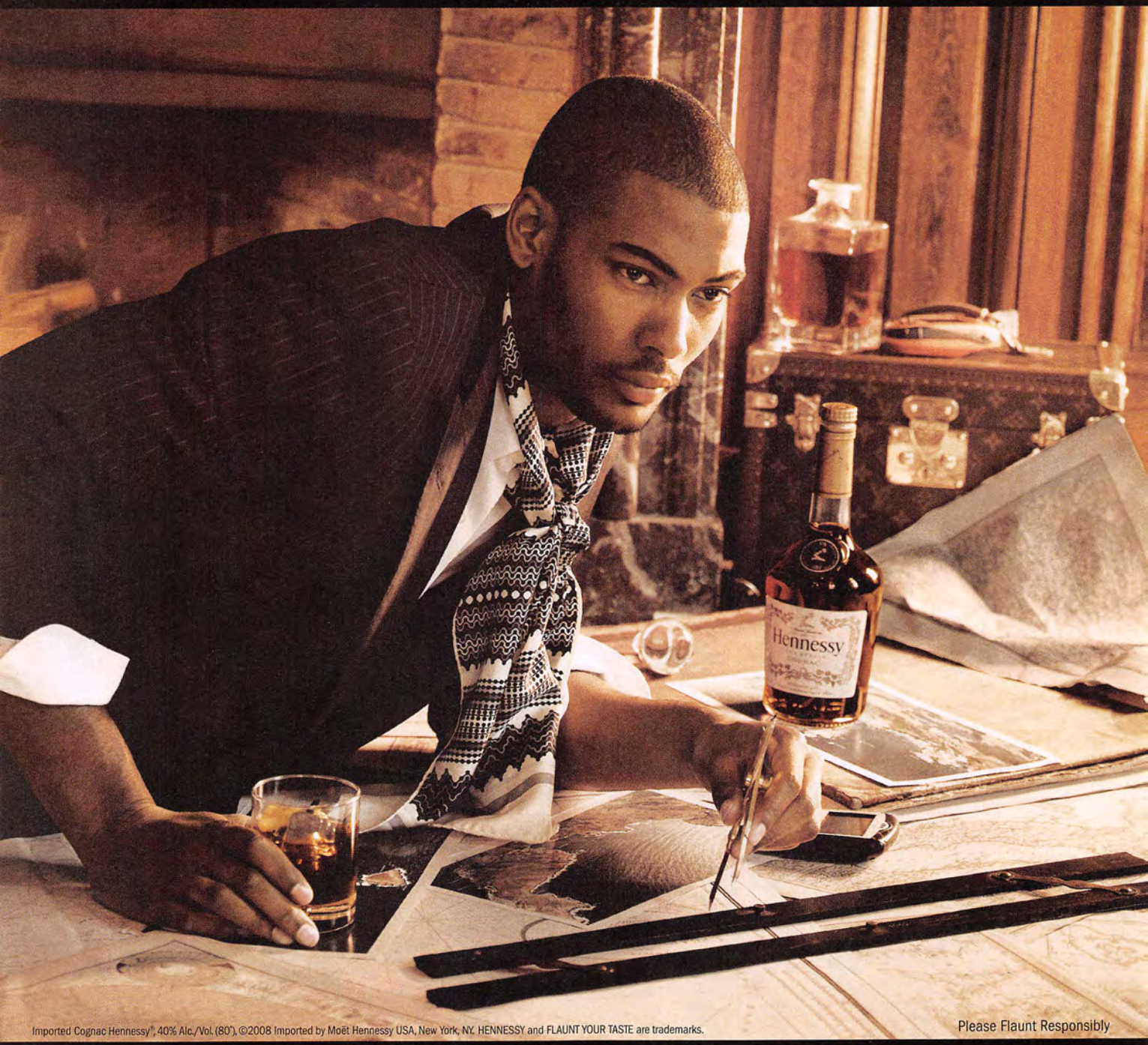
"Are you ready for some prog rock? Hello? Anyone?"

WHY DOES SO MUCH MUSIC SOUND LIKE TOTAL CRAP NOW?

Kevin Figeroa, New Orleans, LA

You obviously haven't heard the latest Rush album. But you may have a point. While MP3s make burning CDs a snap, they sap the sound quality of the tunes that are transferred to your iPod. "The process of turning a song from your CD into an MP3 removes roughly 90 percent of the data that makes up the song," declares Vinnie Olivieri from the University of California, Irvine's sound design department. That remaining 10 percent is compressed, flattening out the noise—making the louds softer and the softs louder. Which is merely a polite way to say today's tunes often sound "like total crap." Luckily, Kevin, you're probably too young to have ever owned a vinyl album, so your ignorant ass doesn't know any better. Who are we kidding? You've never even bought a CD.

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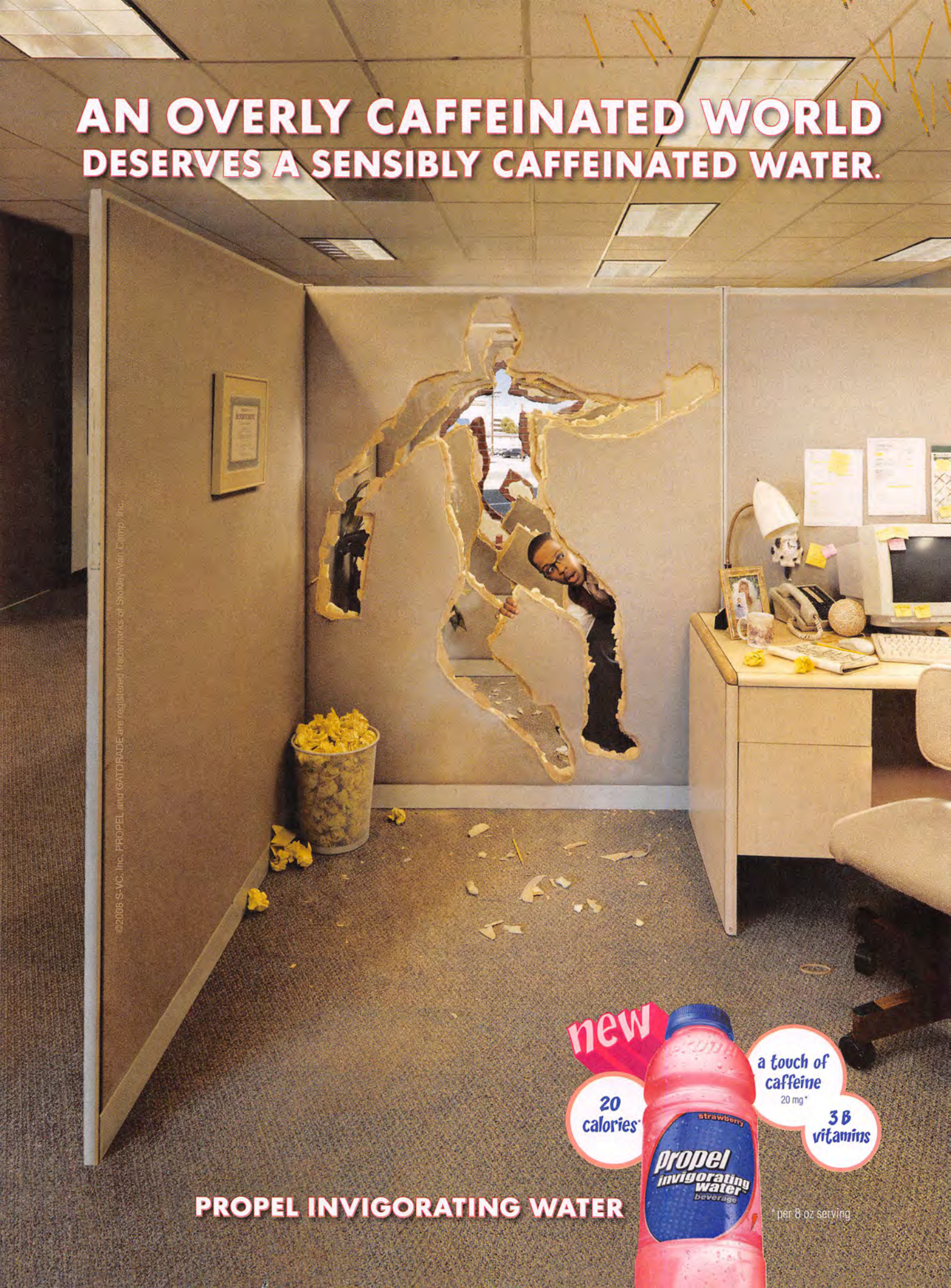
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PAGE 36 TV TRACY MORGAN TALKS *ROCK*
PAGE 36 MOVIES HAROLD & KUMAR BURN ONE
PAGE 39 MOST WANTED *TRL*'S LYNDSEY RODRIGUES
PAGE 44 MUSIC DEATH CAB ROLLS ON
PAGE 46 24 HOURS TERRENCE HOWARD'S END
PAGE 48 369 OLYMPICS AND CARGO KILTS

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Bad time to practice parallel parking

SWEET LIBERTY

Grand Theft Auto IV brings gaming's baddest franchise back to Liberty City, the place where the mayhem all began.

The best part about a new *GTA* game is exploring every nook and cranny of a fresh locale. So why in the name of all that's illegal does *Grand Theft Auto IV*—the first version for next-gen systems *and* the first to merit a new roman numeral since the revolutionary *GTA III*—take place in a city we already know? "The Liberty City in previous versions was only vaguely reminiscent of New York," explains Jeronimo Barrera, Rockstar Games' VP of Development. "We based that city on lots of places—Detroit, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston...It was supposed to feel like a run-down, older American city, not particularly like New York." Fine, but then why switch things up? "Because we're telling an immigrant story this go-round, we felt there was no better location than the city that has always been home to people seeking the American dream." The immigrant in question is Eastern European Niko Bellic, and his "American dream" is a murderous rise to the top of the criminal underworld. "We've placed a much heavier emphasis on relationships the character will build," says Barrera. "Between his varied social circle, the influences of different nationalities, and the stifling oppression of the landscape, Niko feels like he is part of a living, breathing city." And with *GTA IV* boasting the most detailed, immersive game play the virtual world has ever known, he won't be the only one.—*Patrick Carone*

Rock This Town

Booze It Up
Niko can engage in lots of realistic activities, like getting drunk; then he stumbles, and the camera sways. He can walk, call a taxi, or—cover your ears, MADD—try to drive.





Life's a Beach
When Niko wants to get away from big-city life, he can take a dirt bike and explore Firefly Island. "We tried to put a degree of life into the experience," says Barrera.

Stay Connected
"Using a cell makes you part of this world," says Barrera. With those anytime minutes, call folks like Little Jacob, a Rasta gun dealer who will hook Niko up anywhere.





Even PETA's not sure what to make of that jacket.

KING OF ROCK

Tracy Morgan invites us inside *30 Rock*—and his own strange head.

Fans of *30 Rock* are thrilled for the return of TV's best sitcom, but we're not sure about star and sound bite machine Tracy Morgan. "I spent the writers' strike eating, doing stand-up, and playing with girls all night," he says. "A couple of females is probably pregnant."

Luckily, Morgan's appetite for action is matched only by his dedication to the Emmy-winning series about the backstage high jinks at a sketch show. "It's my passion," he says. "And it's a paycheck. You can't get no pussy if you ain't got no dough."

OK, then. So what about those new episodes, Tracy? "We're doing the same great shit," he reports. That means network suit Jack (Alec Baldwin) is doing all he can to keep a Republican in the White House; show runner Liz (Tina Fey) is trying not to obsess over her love life; and Morgan's character, Tracy Jordan, is doing what he does best—causing madcap chaos. "Now I don't have to go crazy in clubs. I get to do it on TV."

That wasn't always a sure bet. Though gaining momentum this year, *30 Rock*'s first-season ratings risked cancellation. "They're always giving out applications at FedEx, but you think I'm lifting boxes?" shrugs Morgan. "Get the fuck out. Besides, people love the show. Puff Daddy told me, 'When it ends, I think, *Damn, that should've kept going!*'"—*Guy Cimbalo*



Best Buds

Stars John Cho and Kal Penn riff on the new *Harold & Kumar* flick.

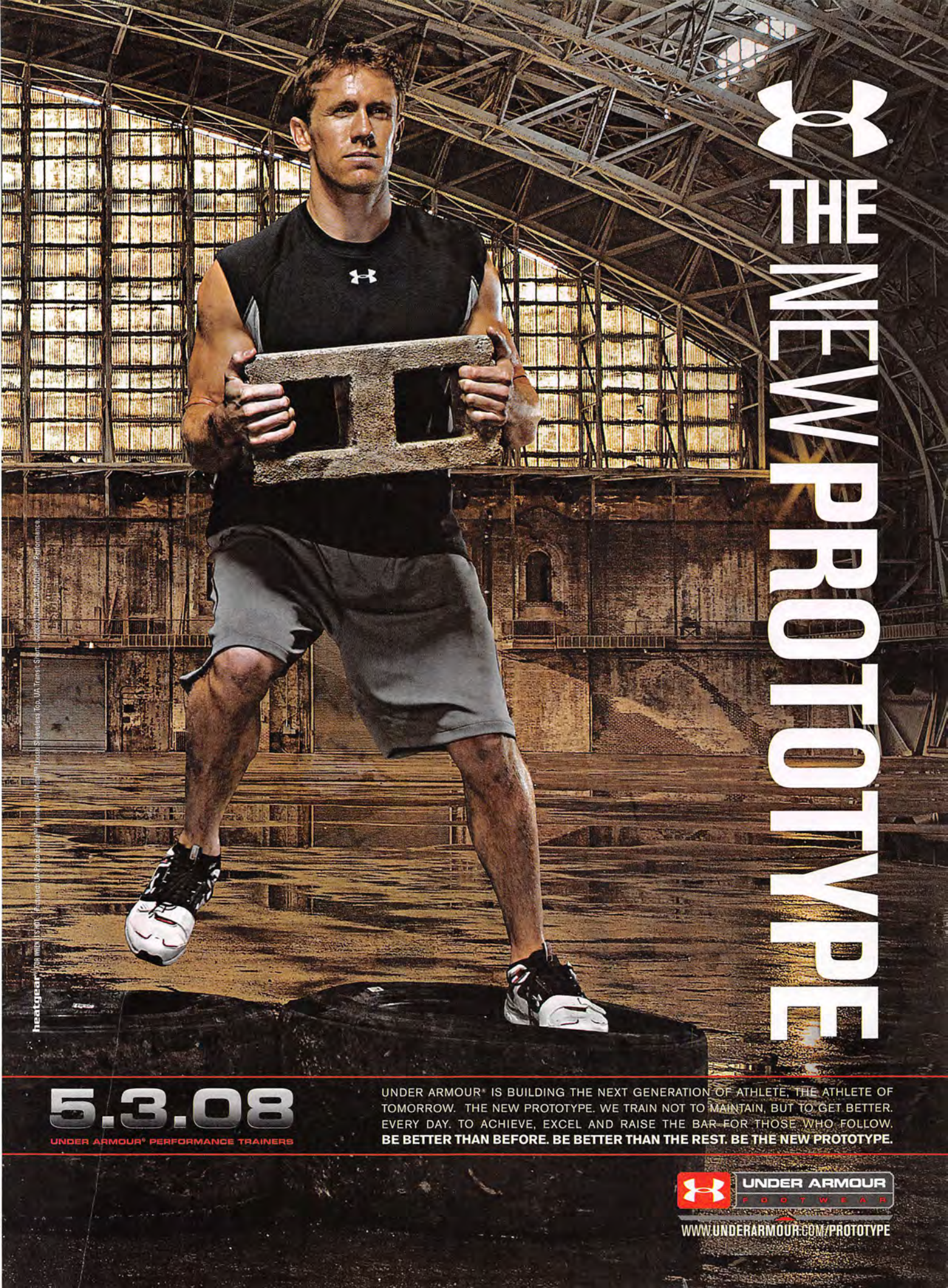
Kal: In the first movie we set out for White Castle, but it doesn't turn out to be the 20-minute journey we thought. In *Harold & Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay* [opening April 25], we're accused of being terrorists and spend the movie getting chased by the Feds.
John: I actually thought bringing up political stuff might get us into trouble.
Kal: But you realize *these are characters*. I mean, I've played a terrorist and a rapist!
John: Although people do confuse me with my character. Or they come up to me and tell me they're like Harold.
Kal: I get, "Dude, I'm exactly like Kumar!" The weird thing is, only 20 percent of them at most are Indian-American.
John: I thought the ethnic angle was gonna be what people grabbed on to, but Asians tell me, "Thanks for representing stoners."
Kal: Lots of folks want to get high with us.

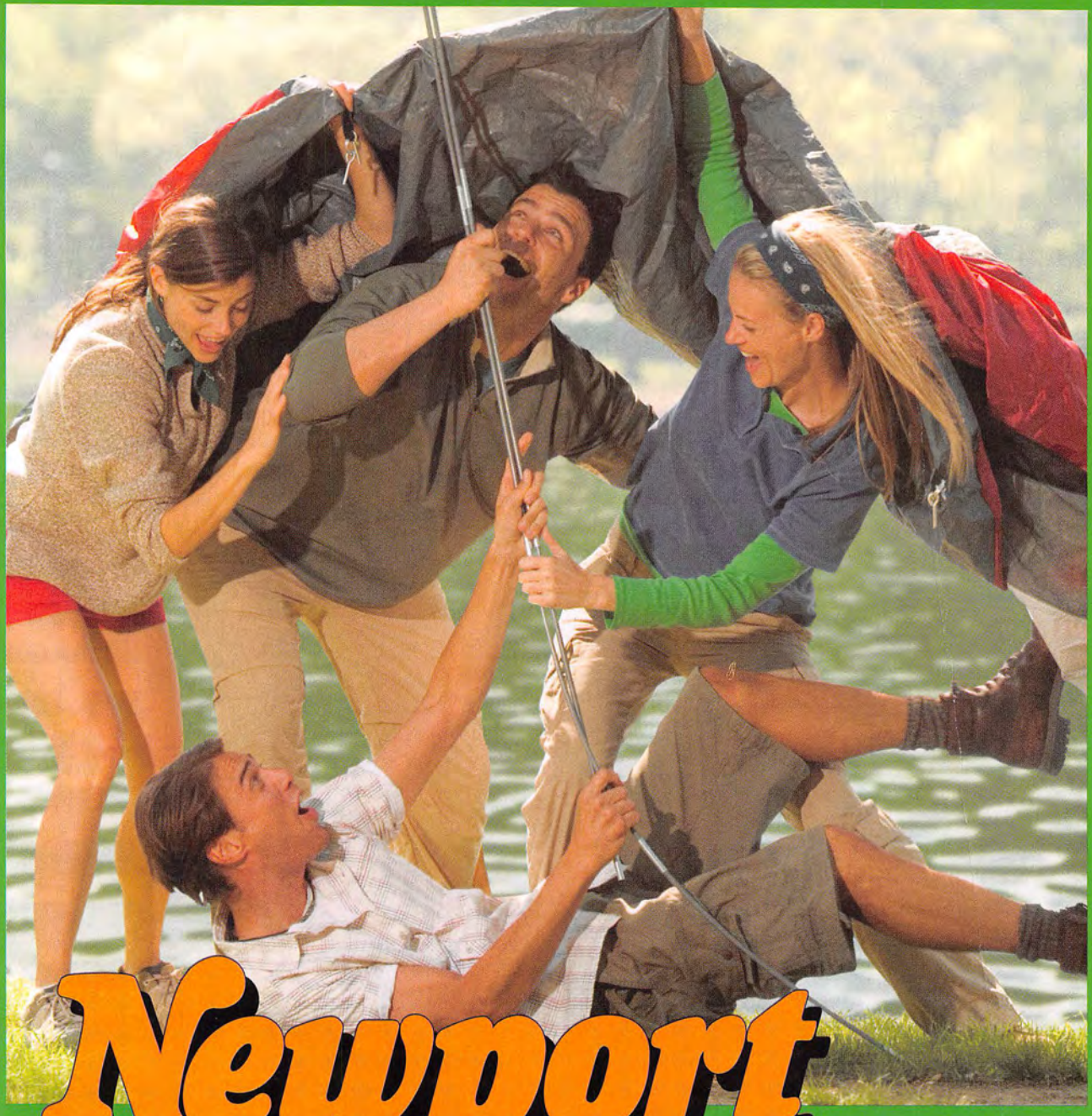


The Checkup

Sifting through the cinematic heap.

	Will give your nephew nightmares	Will give you nightmares	Men in tights?	TV star cashes in again on the big screen	Set in an implausible fantasy world	Knocked Up, Juno, and Junior all in one	OUR TAKE
 **Baby Mama** Tina Fey stars as a baby-craving career woman in for some surprises when she hires trashy pregnancy surrogate Amy Poehler.				✓	✓	✓	If anyone can make jokes about fertility treatments and barren uteri funny, it's these former Weekend Update partners who will do anything for a guffaw.
 **Made of Honor** Patrick Dempsey is a New York City playboy whose best pal and crush, Michelle Monaghan, asks him to be her maid of honor. Get it?		✓	✓	✓	✓		McDreamy in a romantic comedy that revolves around a society wedding? It's like Hollywood designed the perfect excuse for us to stay home and watch FX.
 **Narnia: Prince Caspian** The *Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* sequel features the same cast of adorable kids fighting to return the titular prince to his throne.	✓		✓		✓		A darker romp than the first trip to Narnia, this go-round has more *Lord of the Rings*–style fantasy and 30 percent less faunish prancing.
 **Speed Racer** Andy and Larry Wachowski escape from *The Matrix* to turn your favorite Saturday-morning cartoon into a wild, live-action thrill ride.	✓				✓		Take it for a spin just to see if the Wachowskis can make faithful anime-style visuals into a *Matrix*-like masterpiece instead of a *Matrix*-sequel-like mess.


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THAT SAME SHOW, ALBA LOVINGLY CARESSED A BOWL OF WHIPPED CREAM. NO JOKE.

LYNDSEY RODRIGUES

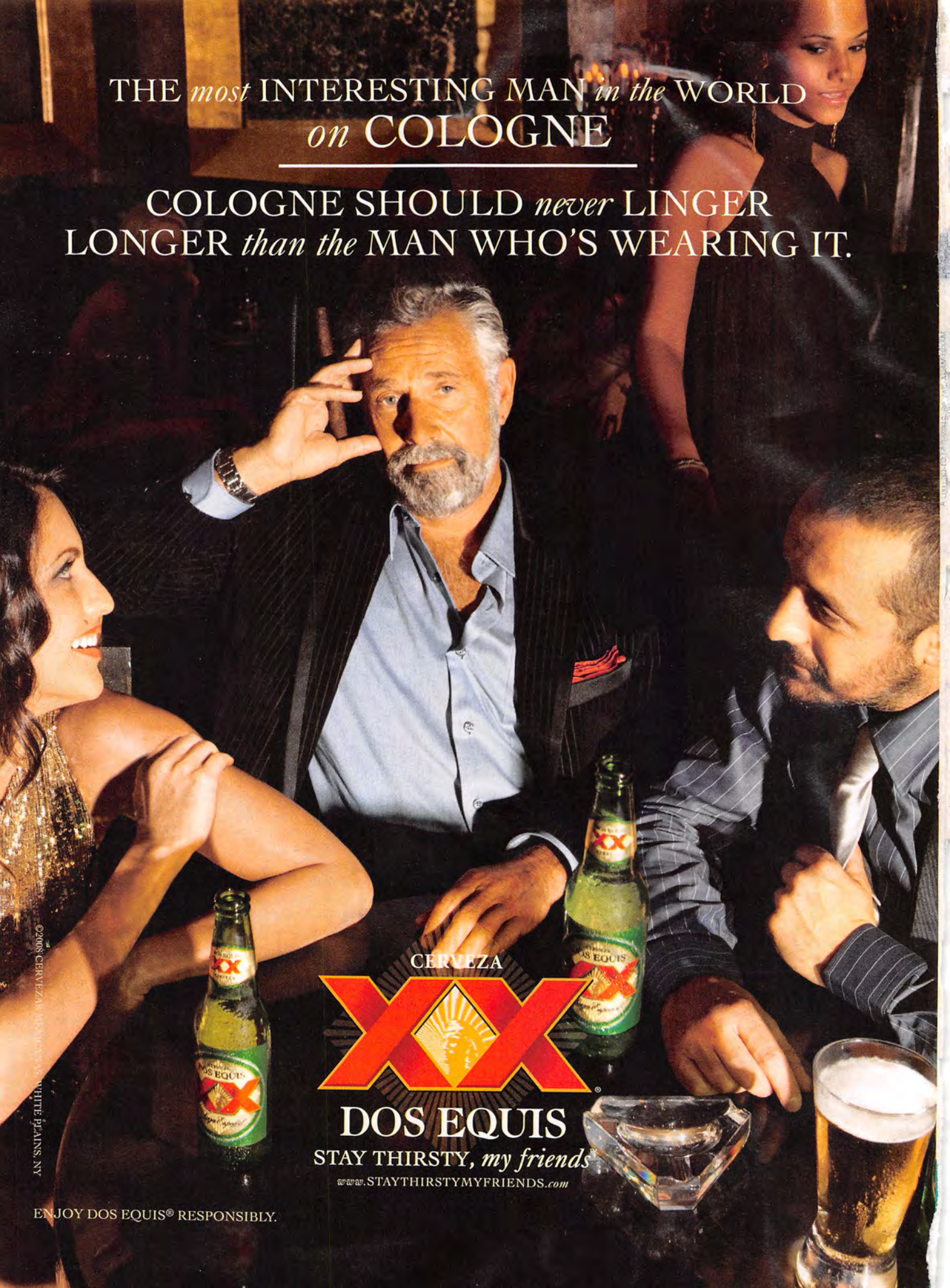
The tempting *TRL* host provides some afternoon delight.

Her job entails interviewing musicians she sometimes can't stand ("The Strokes were privileged children"), anointing hotties ("Fergie—talk about a bad girl gone good"), and withstanding the high-pitched screams of rabid teenagers. Now Lyndsey Rodrigues, the new ringmistress of MTV's afternoon *Total Request Live* broadcast, is contemplating her own fresh celebrity status. "Paparazzi digging through my trash? I really hope my life never gets to the Britney Spears point," she says.

Lindsey's already survived her share of embarrassing on-screen moments. Before moving to New York City in 2007, she helmed an Aussie adventure show called *Full Tank*. "I tried to learn how to surf, bike, and snowboard on live TV," she says. "I failed at all three." Another memorable Down Under incident? "While camping I fed a kangaroo some bread, and suddenly there were 10 kangaroos wrestling me for the food." Even a transfer to the States hasn't curbed her fondness for wildlife: "If left to my own devices, I'm out every night." Work a few hours and party all night? Seems Lindsey has her budding-celeb priorities straight.—*Jesse Brukman*

Want video of Lyndsey's shoot? Hit up maxim.com.

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TEST *your* POWERS *of* DISGUISE:

My assistant must be prolific in the art of disguise. The right facial accoutrement can guarantee safe passage across borders as well as delighting an audience of eager onlookers. Once you're versatile with your whiskers and shaping wax, the world is your oyster.



the DICTATOR.

Use three or more beards layered together to provide an impressive continuous effect. Once, I used this look to cull a small revolution, which I later turned into a profitable furniture business.



the PULITZER.

You would be shocked to learn how often some simple shaping and trimming can admit you into previously "exclusive" literary soirees.



the CHARMER.

Most people don't realize exactly how much of the Calcutta cobra charmer's hypnotic power stems from his facial hair. Let me be clear - it's an awful lot.

TEST *your* WEAPONRY SKILLS:

You can't be my assistant without at least a cursory knowledge of the use and maintenance of the humble, yet effective blow dart. If you don't have a Fukiya on hand, a simple beverage straw will suffice.

STEP 1:
Locate straw (check your local tavern).

STEP 2:
Unwrap straw. Save wrapper.

STEP 3:
Wad up straw wrapper. Load it into end of straw. Be careful with it – you don't want that thing going off.

STEP 4:
Position other end of straw gingerly in mouth.

STEP 5:
Complete all necessary equations for wind velocity, skittishness of target, etc.

STEP 6:
When ready, blow.

Important: Do NOT Suck.



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are YOU *my new* SUPPLICANT?

I am in need of a new assistant. In the spirit of full disclosure I should mention that my former assistant perished in the natural course of his duties. I have every reason to believe that you can fill his shoes, big though they may be, without dying. This is not to say the job will be easy. He hand-fed my piranhas. His skill with a shiv was unparalleled.

Your duties may also include sneaking me into embassy parties, cleaning and pressing our tuxes on safari, procuring last-minute courtside seats and stopping me at all costs from calling a woman named Natasha. I mean it. No matter what I say.

Since this is a position of great importance it is reasonable that I would require a quick assessment of your aptitude. Please review the enclosed materials to determine whether you have the skills and strength to fill his shoes.

The carcass of which animal makes a suitable temporary shelter? (Check all that apply)
__Elephant __ Camel __ Cheetah __ Sand Turtle
__ Lion __ Mule Deer __ Cottontail __ Woodrat(s)

While piloting my dirigible over France you notice a leak. We're going down. Also we are hungry for mussels. Should we parachute to safety over St. Malo or La Rochelle for lunch? _____

When you apply sunscreen to a male friend, do you just give it a good once over or are you thorough and really get it everywhere like a real man?
__ Good once over __ Thorough, like a real man would

Out of curiosity, what should one expect as a reward for pulling a Nigerian prince out of quicksand? ____.__ NGN

How many blades does your razor have?
__ 1 __ 2 __ 3 __ 4 __ 5

Who should I buy a Dos Equis for first?



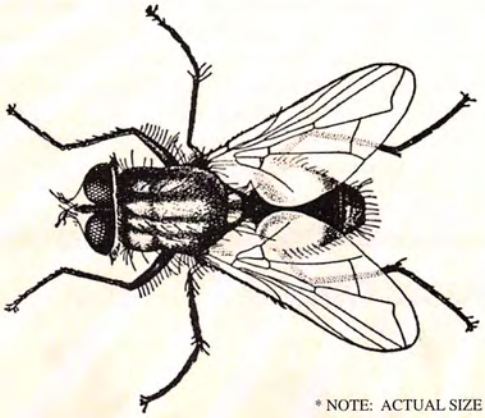
Please Check Appropriate Box	Interesting	Not Interesting
Salting Meat	☐	☐
Walruses (All Kinds)	☐	☐
Bleach or Bleached Items	☐	☐
Leatherstocking (As a Name)	☐	☐

COMPLETE *a* DRAWING *of my* LIKENESS:
At stake are your powers of observation and possible inclusion in my museum of portraiture.



YOUR DRAWING HERE

I DISCOVERED *this* FLY.
If pressed, would you be prepared to eat one?



* NOTE: ACTUAL SIZE

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Chairs are so not emo.

DEATH CAB OVERDRIVE

The emo darlings turn up the volume and rock out on *Narrow Stairs*.

On tour in 2005 to support *Plans*, their major-label debut, emo kings Death Cab for Cutie regularly cut loose with guitar-drenched anthems that reminded audiences of the band's roots in Seattle's '90s indie scene. So where were the wistful piano ballads beloved by navel-gazing superfans?

"For better or worse, our live shows have always been drastically different from our records," says lead singer Ben Gibbard. "I think people were a little taken aback."

Their new album, *Narrow Stairs*, changes that. While *Plans* did indeed feature some Mr. Paltrow–style piano-driven ditties, the Coldplay comparison is not eagerly embraced. "We created the last record piece by piece, trying to make every component as perfect as possible," Gibbard says. "But after touring the past few years, we concluded that it's a fucking boring way to make records."

As on the band's five previous releases, guitarist-keyboardist Chris Walla handled production duties. But this time around songwriter Gibbard relied more heavily on his guitar to write the tunes, resulting in a louder, more daring record. The 8½-minute-first single, "I Will Possess Your Heart," features a stately bass-driven buildup before the vocals kick in at the four-minute mark.

So will their heavier sound, coupled with the fact that Death Cab's music has soundtracked popular TV shows and movies from *The O.C.* to *Wedding Crashers*, cause music snobs to scream, "Sellouts!"? Not according to Gibbard. "We all want people to hear our songs," he says. "Now that everyone expects music for free, soundtracks are a way for artists to get paid for their work that once might have been shunned as selling out. The truth is, the number of bands releasing great records and your ability to listen to them is better than ever. It's pretty incredible." —*David Swanson*

Reviews

For your aural satisfaction, here's what's dropping this month.

The Kooks • Konk • Astralwerks



●●◐○○

They call themselves the Kooks, but these English lads aren't the sort to perform Monty Python sketches. Their second album buffs pub rock to a shine with sweet guitar interplay and sweeter sentiment. Amped-up melodies redeem the saccharine on the opening tracks, but when lines like "I need your soul 'cause you're always soulful" come, you may feel like poking your eyes out.—*Nick Catucci*

Jason Mraz • We Sing. We Dance. We Steal Things. • Atlantic



●●●●○

Jason Mraz enjoys musical theater and white-boy funk. Thankfully, his third album scales back the spaz factor just enough for him to come off like a charmer. His brand of adult contemporary feels mischievously exuberant in its borrowings of rap and vintage horn-driven beats, and some of his ballads are downright moving. The schoolboy has become an improbable soul man.—*N.C.*

Madonna • Hard Candy • Warner Bros.



●●●○○

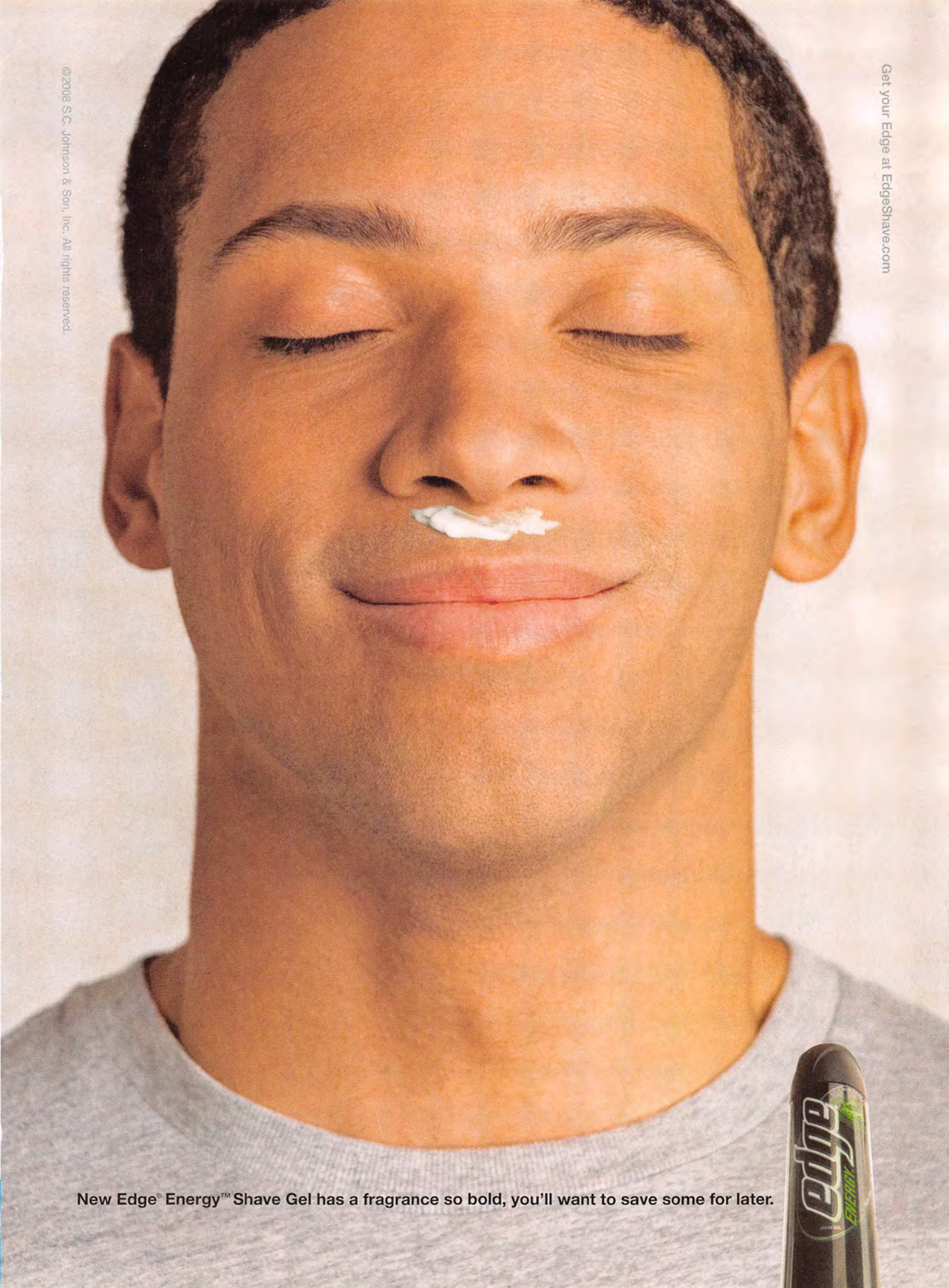
Cougar is *such* a limiting term. On her fourth new album this century, Madonna enlists young'uns Justin Timberlake, Pharrell Williams, and Timbaland, but she rubs off on them as well. The peak? "4 Minutes," a manic soundtrack to a quickie, cowritten by Timberlake, who also sings. On "Beat Goes On," featuring Kanye West, Williams' Neptunes soak up Madge's love of disco and wring out dance-floor beats.—*N.C.*

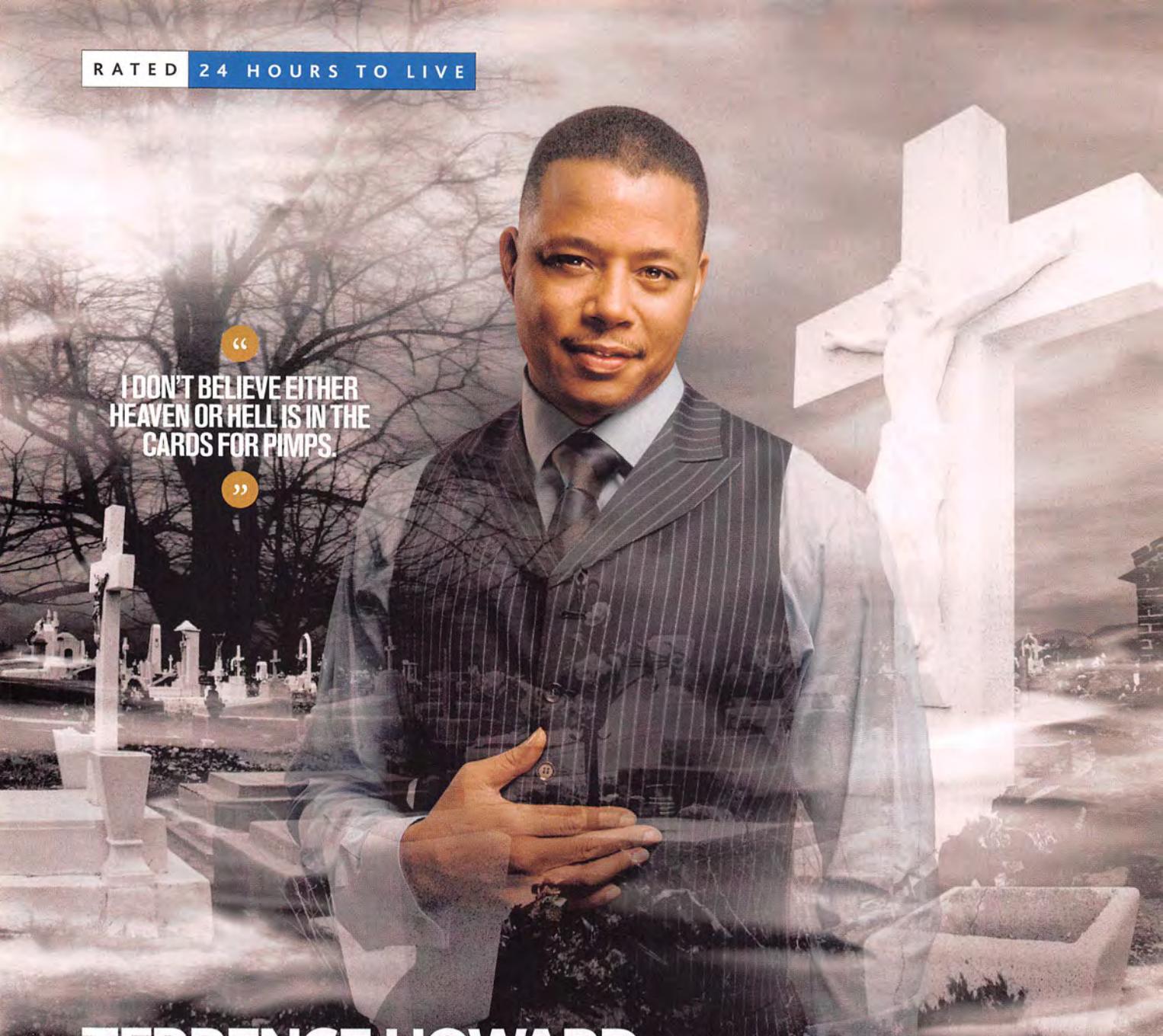
Music Math

Def Leppard • Songs From the Sparkle Lounge • Bludgeon Riffola/Island/UMe



They poured pop-metal sugar all over the charts in the '80s. Now, on their 14th album (their first with new material since 2002's *X*), Def Leppard rock back with the same knack for huge choruses as in their glory days and, yes, Rick Allen, their heroic one-armed drummer. Inexplicably, country star Tim McGraw joins them on "Nine Lives," the album's first single. —*Nick Catucci*


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"I DON'T BELIEVE EITHER HEAVEN OR HELL IS IN THE CARDS FOR PIMPS."

TERRENCE HOWARD

The costar of this month's good-versus-evil action flick *Iron Man* talks about being a dead man.

SO HOW DO YOU WANT TO GO?
I don't want to go. Period.

WHAT'S YOUR LAST MEAL?
Funyuns and some grape juice.

DO YOU HAVE ANY DEATHBED CONFESSIONS?
I should have been nicer to my wife.

WHO DID YOU ALWAYS WANT TO SLEEP WITH?
Audrey Hepburn.

WHAT'S THE WILDEST THING YOU EVER DID?
I planned a wedding and married my ex-wife in one day.

WHAT BOOK DO YOU REGRET NOT FINISHING?
The Bible.

TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF THAT YOUR FANS NEVER KNEW.
I am scared to death.

DID YOU HAVE ANY NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES WHILE SHOOTING *GET RICH OR DIE TRYIN'*?
Well, I almost busted my head open during that shower scene.

IF YOU HAD TO DIE TRYIN' SOMETHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
Trying to fly.

IN *HUSTLE & FLOW*, YOU SANG, "IT'S HARD OUT HERE FOR A PIMP." SO DO PIMPS GO TO HEAVEN OR TO HELL?
I don't believe either heaven or hell is in the cards for pimps.

ARE THERE ANY CLASSIC MOVIE ROLES YOU WISH YOU COULD HAVE HAD?
I would have loved to play Paul Newman's role in *Cool Hand Luke*.

IF YOU COULD COME BACK FROM THE DEAD AND SPY ON SOMEONE, WHO WOULD IT BE?
I don't believe I could come back, but if I did, I hope I wouldn't waste any time spying.

WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING OVER YOUR CASKET?
"Here lies a real son of a bitch."

WHAT IF YOU WERE REINCARNATED?
I would come back as me. Doesn't everyone want a do-over?

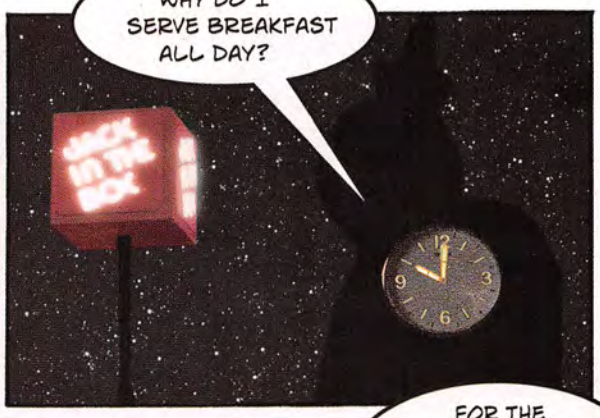
Iron Man hits theaters nationwide on May 2.

PHOTOGRAPHS, LIME FOTO/ROBERT SEBREE (HOWARD); JEFF SMITH/ALAMY; CAMERA PRESS/RETNA LTD. (CEMETERY)

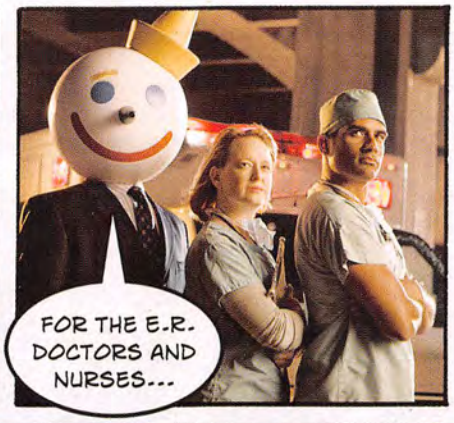
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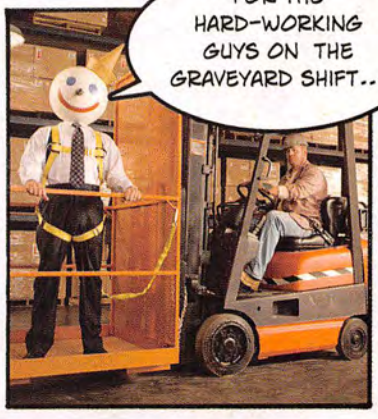


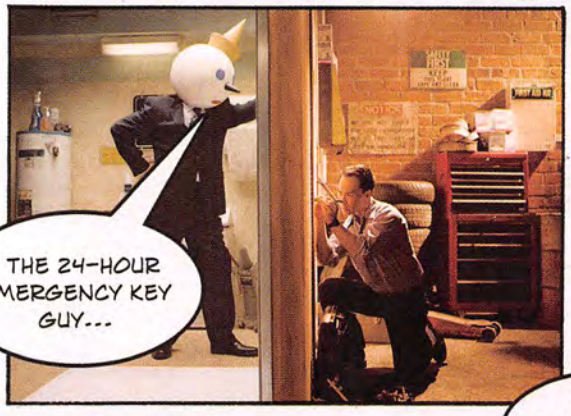


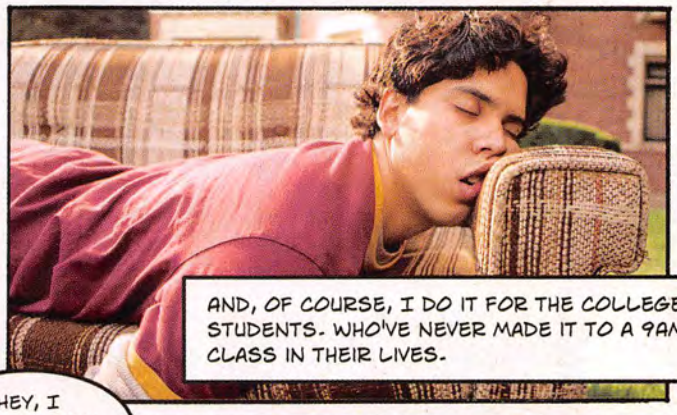




















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The future of pop culture, filed and sorted for your anticipatory pleasure.

GET PSYCHED FOR

Olympic Cycling BMX

The IOC is injecting some much-needed grit into this summer's Olympiad by adding BMX cycling. Tune in and catch 48 of the world's elite racers speed, soar, and eat Beijing dirt in their pursuit of historic Olympic gold.



Gears of War 2

The first game (below) redefined third-person shooters, and now designer Cliff Bleszinski says he's creating "an even more badass experience." Get ready to spend all your free time helping the Delta Squad protect humanity.



Super Bowl XLIII

Sure, football season doesn't start for another four months, but that's no excuse for not prepping now for the big game in Tampa. After all, that seven-layer dip recipe isn't going to perfect itself!



STAY AWAY FROM

Cargo Kilts

As the dog days of summer approach, watch out for the lamest male fashion trend this side of fluorescent-orange Crocs. Keeping cool in the crotch is simply no excuse for tooling around like a grunge-era Scrooge McDuck.



Election Coverage Overload

Ratings, hype, and polls, oh my! Thanks to the annoying *Minority Report*–like graphics that flood Fox News and CNN election coverage, your photosensitive epileptic fits are about to become chronic.



Ghosts of Girlfriends Past

In this Valentine's Day doozie, Matthew McConaughey stars as a bachelor receiving awkward, unexpected visits from his exes. If your girlfriend forces you into the theater, prepare for plenty of McConaughey beauty shots.



TIME WILL TELL

Franz Ferdinand Album

"It's the opposite of punk pop," frontman Alex Kapranos has said of the band's as-yet-untitled third album. Considering that FF's previous efforts made punk pop into an art, fingers are crossed the boys aren't fixing what ain't broke.



The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

It's hard to imagine edgy director David Fincher at the helm of this story about an 80-year-old man born aging backward, but with *Fight Club*'s Brad Pitt as the lead geezer, we're, well, curious.



Digital TV Switch

On February 18, 2009, all TV stations are required by law to transmit only digital signals. Old-school analog sets will go black unless outfitted to receive digital broadcasts, so make sure Granny isn't forced to go without her *Matlock*.



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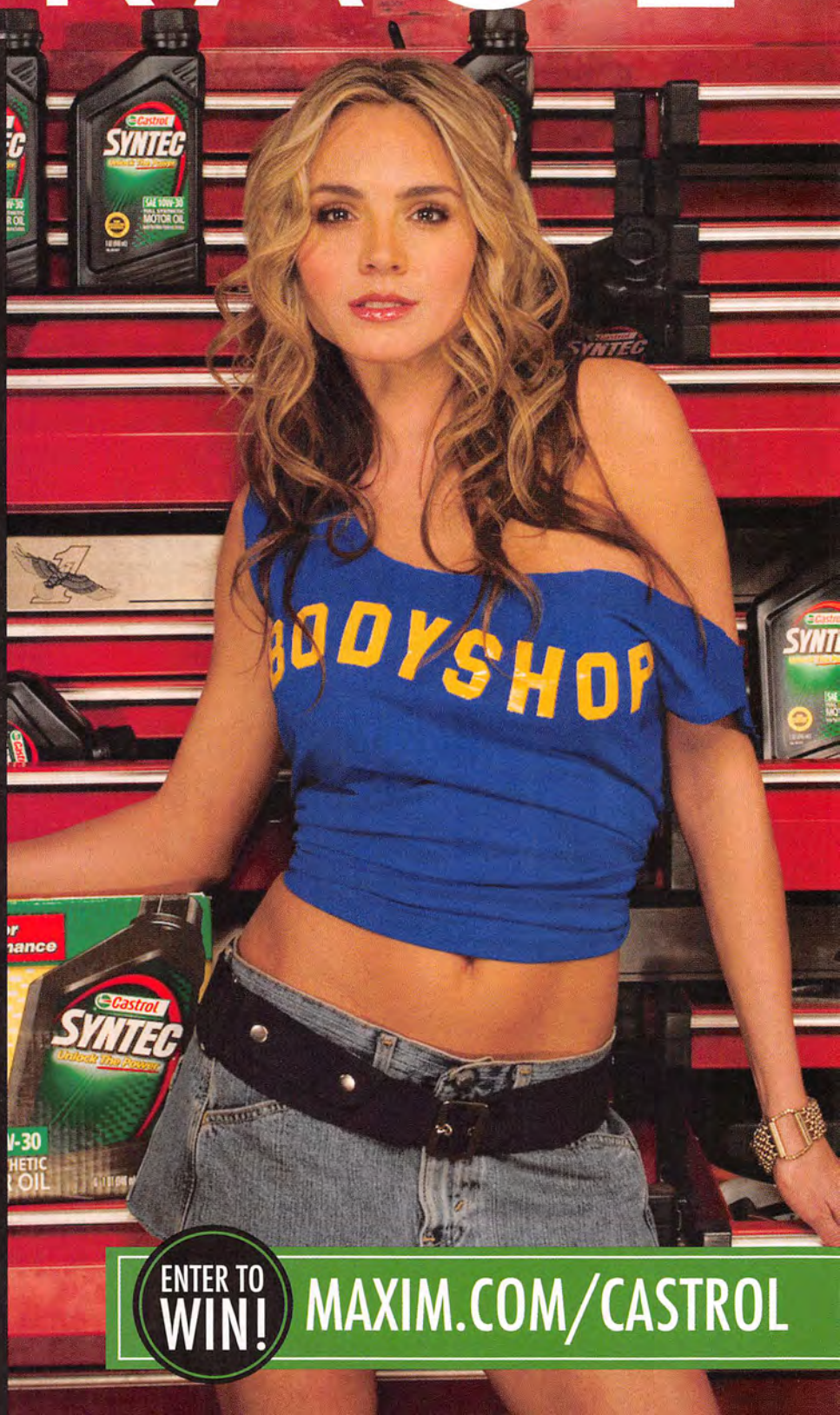
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EURO TRIP

A ferocious German supercar finally hits the U.S.

Looking for something more unique than a Porsche? In a few months you'll be able to get your hedge-fund hands all over one of the speed world's best-kept secrets: the German-made YES! Roadster 3.2, a hand-built machine that can attain Ferrari F430–like 0–60 times at about half the price. Upstart carmakers Funke & Will have been turning out the topless beauties for Europeans since 2000, and this summer 50 of them will hit the States. Throw on your lederhosen and line up now.



BY MIKE SPINELLI PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEE POWERS

1 Power Pack

Think open-air roadsters are for slick, pomade-wearing ninnies? So do we, with a few exceptions. An infusion of raw power vindicates this ragtop and puts it in the company of the badass BMW M Roadster and Porsche Boxster S. The ponies come by way of Audi's 3.2-liter V-6; the entry-level YES! gets a 255 hp setup, while the Turbo comes with 355 hp on tap.

2 Slim Fast

YES! reduced weight wherever possible to increase the velocity of this road rocket. Owing much to an aluminum space-frame chassis, the base YES! weighs a slim 1,962 pounds, while the turbofied model comes in at 2,050. That's lighter than the positively anorexic Lotus Elise. Such svelteness is the key to its 22-mpg-plus fuel economy. Sexy *and* sensible!

3 Speed Cures

The midengine rear-wheel-drive roadster rings up supercar numbers: It clocks a 0–60 mph time of just 4.8 seconds (only 3.8 seconds with the turbocharger strapped on). Plus, with a huge selection of speed parts available for the Audi V-6 engine, power possibilities are endless. Some tuners have tweaked the power plant to produce a face-flattening 500 hp.



4 Roller Coaster

What good is a roadster without the sensation of clinging to steel rails at high speed? Handling's a key selling point, so designers used a double-wishbone setup both front and rear. The suspension comes with adjustable springs and dampers, as well as a locking rear differential for channeling power to both rear wheels equally. Four-piston Brembo calipers over ventilated disks help it halt before red lights and poodles.

5 Tweak It

The car comes with few frills—remember, it's all about you and the road. You'll get 17-inch alloys (18-inch on the Turbo), a driver's-side airbag (a gub'ment mandate), power windows, and remote keyless entry with alarm. Extras like leather, air conditioning, a nav system, heated seats, stainless-steel exhaust, and color-coordinated wheels cost extra. Somehow, we think buyers will be able to come up with the cash.

SPEC CHECK

YES! Roadster 3.2
Price: $77,995 (3.2 Turbo: $97,995)
Engine: Audi 3.2-liter V-6
Torque: 243 lb.-ft. (358 lb.-ft.)
Horsepower: 255 hp (355 hp)
0–60 mph: 4.8 seconds (3.8 seconds)
Top speed: 158 mph (174 mph)
Available: Summer 2008

SOLE SEARCHING

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TERRAIN KINGS

Salomon XT Wings WP
These are killers on the mountain but can run on any surface—except water. (Sorry, Jesus!) Testers bombed Catskill trails and city bridges and gave high marks to the XT Wings' "super-solid" motion control system and shock absorption. The tieless Kevlar Quickfit lacing system seemed "Star Trekky" to one tester, but he came around. "I'm ready for the future," he says. **$140**, *salomonsports.com*



TRACK STARS

Under Armour Proto Speed Trainer
These cross-trainers, Under Armour's first, are built for straight-line running and bursts of speed, making them ideal for those after-hours wind sprints you've been doing at the high school track (a little creepy). One tester said the raised heel was "as protective as Kindergarten Cop," but noted that the red, black, and silver outsoles would "draw attention to my cankles." **$90**, *underarmour.com*



TRAIL BLAZERS

The North Face Rucky Chucky
Designed to protect feet on long runs over mountain terrain, the flaming mesh on these beasties will also protect against drunk hunters mistaking you for a rare mountain quail. Testers loved the debris-resistant tread but asked for a "dog-poo-proof" version. Our runners also commended the "jacked-up" ankle support. Wanna run away from society? This is your shoe. **$110**, *thenorthface.com*



ROAD WARRIORS

Saucony ProGrid Paramount
One runner called these "the Lexus sedans of the sneaker world," since they're packed with tech features like a thermo-regulated fabric that maintains the shoes' temp near 82°F. We didn't stick a thermometer in 'em, but our marathoner said that putting on these shoes was like "strapping on clouds." Our fave feature? A pocket for cab fare for when you bail midrun. **$165**, *saucony.com*

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Prototype vehicle shown with optional equipment. ©2008 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.



ROLL-PLAY

For couples only: Get her some cool, classic roller skates.

It's common knowledge that any dude who has watched *Boogie Nights* has a "Rollergirl" fantasy. So how to proceed toward wish fulfillment? Get your lady a pair of classic throwback Ravens from Riedell, a Minnesota shop that still makes all-leather skates just like they did in 1972, when your mom tore it up all sexy-like at the rink. These '08 skates are a leg up on Ma's disco inferno counterparts, thanks to supersmooth ABEC-9 bearings and solid aluminum trucks. The vintage look is likely to usher in a new era of tube tops and free love. You can't go wrong here! **$239,** *riedellroller.com*

PHOTOGRAPH BY SONJA PACHO

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FAST FLIX

New Net-connected set-top boxes allow you to rent thousands of movies at the touch of a button—without having to leave the house or even go to the mailbox. How does each stand up to our 12-hour sofa marathon?



1 SILVER APPLE
Apple TV, $229–$329

Lowdown: Rent or buy movies for $3–$5 with this box, then wirelessly sync with your computer's iTunes to rock your Michael McDonald B-sides collection on the big screen.
Setup: A snap. Up in five minutes.
Video quality: Ninety of the 1,000-plus rental titles are in 1080p HD; our tester said the res was crisp enough to "count the pores on the Team America puppets."
Marathon: Our guy sat through 12 hours of Apple's mostly mainstream content without a glitch, or a leg massage. His faves? *Blacula* and *Ya-Ya Sisterhood*. Weird dude. Rentals are viewable for 24 hours.
Verdict: Sweet interface; needs more movies. Then we'll bite.
RATING ●●●●○

2 GAME ON
Xbox 360, $280–$450

Lowdown: Streaming flicks? Like gamer girls, a little-known part of the 360 experience. Prices: $3–$5.
Setup: After the 12-inch-wide machine "terrorized" our guy's entertainment center, he was up and running in about 10 minutes.
Video quality: To our eyes Xbox had the sharpest HD pic. "*Batman Begins* smacked me in the jaw," our guy said. "Then I watched Frankie Muniz's career collapse frame by frame in *Agent Cody Banks*."
Marathon: Twelve hours proved too much after agonizing hang-ups like a 25-minute wait to watch an HD *Rescue Dawn*. Abort mission!
Verdict: Buy it for gaming and just consider the movies a bonus.
RATING ●●●◐○

3 WATCH 'N' WANK
FyreTV, free, subscription charges start at $10/month

Lowdown: Fills the IPTV sex void by streaming hardcore porn.
Setup: Plug in cables, enter a code, and in two minutes you're finished. Setting up, we mean.
Video quality: FyreTV promises DVD quality and delivers, well, porn-DVD quality—still way sharper than the degenerate stuff you've been downloading.
Marathon: Using searches like Blonde + Fetish + Gangbang, our tester found everything from *Cameltoe Perversions* to *Double Teamed and Creamed* among FyreTV's 20,000-plus titles. After 12 hours our tester is legally blind.
Verdict: Yes! Yes! Yes!
RATING ●●●●○

MAXIM OUR PICK

4 VARIETY SHOW
VUDU, $295

Lowdown: The black box's 250-gig drive has space to store 100 flicks. Rent at $1–$5 or buy for $5–$20.
Setup: Five-minute hookup, 15 to initialize. *Tootsie*? Worth the wait.
Video quality: Glitch-free, but a 1080p HD *3:10 to Yuma* looked only slightly sharper than standard-def.
Marathon: With 5,000 titles, 100-plus in HD, VUDU has more classics and alterna-flicks than Apple. "It was easy to stay ass-planted, motionless on the couch, cruising through *Superbad, Easy Rider,* and *Rebel Without a Cause,*" says our tester. "That James Dean fella's going places."
Verdict: The content king; nab this box if you need movies, not extras.
RATING ●●●●◐

OUR SCIENTIFIC METHODS

Test 1 Hooking up the movie machine

Test 2 Precision video quality evaluation

Test 3 The 12-hour cinema marathon

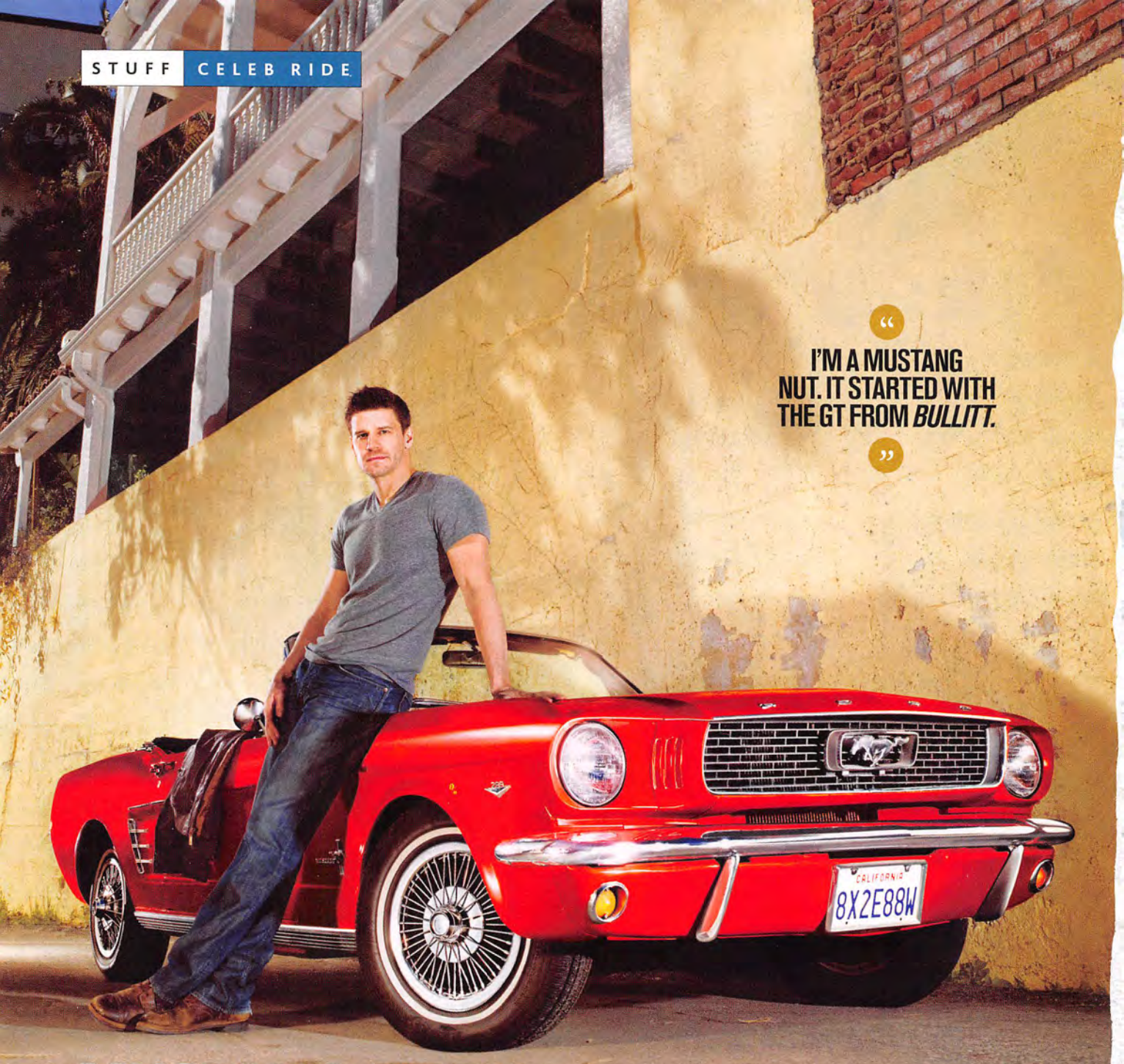
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*YOU CAN'T RENT *SPEED RACER*. IT'S IN THEATERS MAY 9. DUH.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SATOSHI



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"I'M A MUSTANG NUT. IT STARTED WITH THE GT FROM *BULLITT.*"

MUSTANG ALLEY

Bones star David Boreanaz slays 'em in his vintage cherry red Ford Mustang convertible.

Gift Shift
I bought this '66 Mustang for my wife, but I'm the one who drives it more. Believe it or not, she was into Mustangs before I was. I replaced the engine with a 289 V-8, so it's got some go, and the muffler has some caps on it, so there's a little roar, too. Driving it is a blast. It sways a bit with the long front end, but it's very low to the road, so it's fun to punch on turns.

Small-Time Crook
I learned how to drive pretty early. My sister taught me in my parents' stick-shift Honda in Buffalo. One time my friend Joe and I secretly borrowed it. We drove all the way across the Peace Bridge, made it to Canada, bought a couple of cases of Molson, and were back within an hour and a half, before my mom got home. We couldn't have been much more than 12. I set the bar pretty high.

Italian Stallion
I had a white Yugo in high school that would tilt if the wind blew too hard. Seriously, it was a piece. It was so difficult to get it from first to second gear, but that didn't stop us from off-roading, and it was great for dates. It's not the car; it's really all about the Italian driving it—me.

Screen Test
My character in *Bones* drives a pimped-out FBI SUV. I took a stunt-driving course, and now one of my favorite things in the world is shooting driving scenes. There are a few things I know I'm great at as an actor: car pull-up shots, quick turns, and fast stops. You wanna reshoot that, director? Damn straight, let's do it!

Gear Check
I'm a Mustang nut—it started with the GT from *Bullitt*, the coolest car you could ever own. I'd love to buy a GT 350 original Shelby with all new components next. Patrick Dempsey has been trying to get me involved in the vintage-racing scene. I'll be checking that out soon.

Boreanaz plays an FBI special agent on *Bones*. Season three airs Monday nights at 8 P.M. EDT on Fox.

GROOMING, CHERI KEATING AT ARTIST'S BY TIMOTHY PRIANO.COM

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MANN

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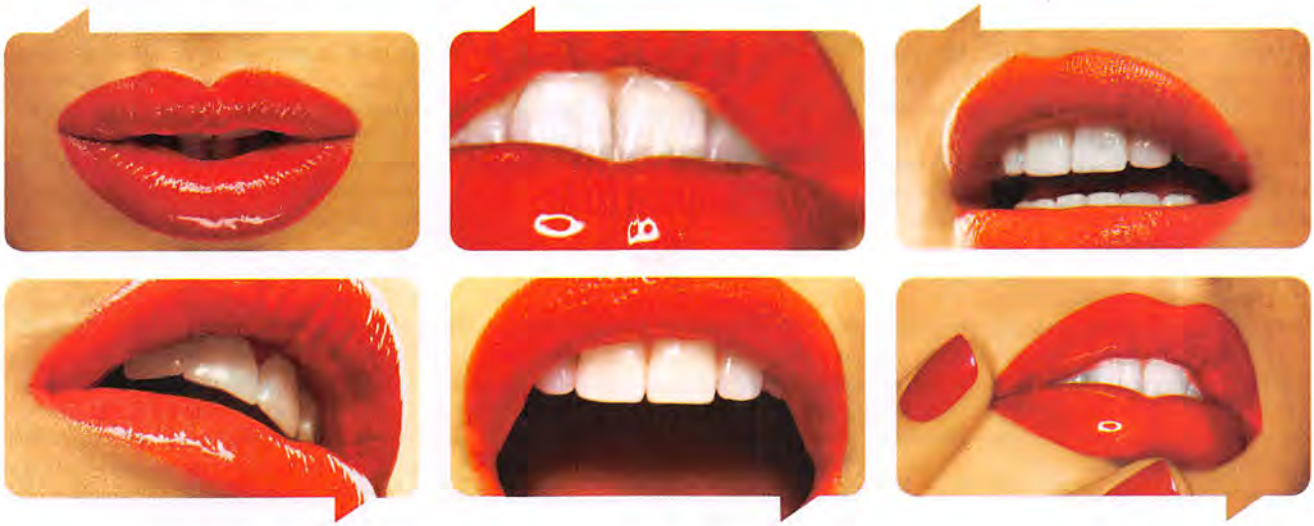
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BY GILLIAN TELLING

Lust in Translation

Dirty talk can be the hottest thing you'll ever do in bed. Or it can get you laughed right out of the room.



Ashley*, 27, was well into a steamy encounter with her boyfriend recently when he began whispering in her ear, a sure way to get her hot he knew from experience. "At first it was the usual stuff: how hot I am, how my body's amazing," she describes. All good. Then he decided to dive into one of his fantasies.

Jim: "Oh, baby, I wish there was someone watching us."

Ashley: "Oh, God, yes! Yes..."

Jim: "Mmm, yeah, I wish it was your sister."

Ashley: "Oh, ye—wait. *What?*"

Talking dirty in bed is one of the best ways to turn ordinary sex kinky and wild. But it's clearly a lot tougher to pull off than it might seem. When a slew of filth is tumbling out of your mouth, it's easy to say things that are embarrassing, offensive, or just plain weird. ("I want to see you with another woman—and a donkey!" is probably not going to be well received, even if that's honestly what you're thinking.) Plus, everyone's comfort level is different. Words that turn one person on can turn another's stomach—a lesson just as many women have learned in the heat of the moment as men.

There are so many dirty talk pitfalls, in fact, you might be tempted to swear it off altogether. But if my research is any indication, the benefits far outweigh the drawbacks. You just have to know when to open your mouth in bed and when to keep it busy with something else.

The Allure of Lip Service

Most women have no trouble *ooh*-ing and *aah*-ing during sex, but we weren't exactly brought up to curse like sailors. So for a lot of us, bringing filthy words into the bedroom feels extra naughty—and exhilarating. "I remember the first time I heard myself say, 'Fuck me,' in bed," says Andrea, 29. "It felt incredibly sexy and powerful. Before then I'd been scared to say all the crazy things running through my mind during sex. But now it's like I have Tourette's."

Of course, dirty talk doesn't consist strictly of four-letter words. One of the greatest things about it is the variety of deliciously nasty things you'll hear, from the standard curses to sexual commands to descriptions of bodily functions and detailed fantasies. And there's a seemingly endless list of helpful verbs—"lick," "suck," "bite," "smack," "rub," "squeeze," "grab"—that in other contexts might be totally innocent, but in bed take on a whole new meaning.

For most, the real appeal isn't just that "bad words" are flying around the room, but the idea we're losing control—so mindlessly, freakishly into the sex we're having, we could give a shit what's proper. Some of us get to the point where we don't even realize what's coming out of our mouths. "My boyfriend once told me with a look of horror that I'd called him 'daddy' repeatedly the night before," says Heather, 32. "I was like, 'I said what? Really?' I definitely don't have any weird father issues or anything. I just don't even think about what I'm saying when we have sex. It's like I'm possessed. All I care about is being raunchy." And the next morning? Most of us go back to being the sweet girls next door you first fell for.

When Foot Meets Mouth

Before you go breaking out the hardcore language, know there are limits to what's acceptable. For example, not a lot of women are cool being referred to as your "dirty slut." (Though a few definitely get off on it.) In fact, it's safe to say that "slut," "bitch," and "whore," are all words you should let her introduce first.

That said, don't try too hard to be polite, either. "Pussy" is the gold standard when referring to a woman's anatomy, and most girls agree even the C-word is preferable to the clinical-sounding "vagina." We want this to feel like wild, horny sex, not a visit to the gynecologist. Above the belt, feel free to refer to her "breasts" or "tits," but never use "boobs," "boobies," or, God forbid, "titties." Euphemisms are also pretty corny, especially if they're used in a misguided effort to be romantic. "I once had a guy tell me, 'I want to lick your beautiful flower,'" says Erin, 28. "It was the cheesiest thing I've ever heard—I didn't know whether to be more embarrassed for him or for myself."

Another cringe inducer: lifting porn dialogue. Some girls have even tested it out themselves—with disastrous results. "The first time I tried talking dirty, I stole a porn phrase and asked the guy if I was 'tight enough' for him," says ➤➤

*SOME NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED.

Lindsay, 30. "When he didn't respond, I asked *again*, till finally he mumbled, 'Uh, yeah.' The whole exchange was so uncomfortable." Guys' worst offense when it comes to porn theft? The weirdly impersonal use of "that," as in, "suck that dick." We know it's attached to you—go ahead and refer to it as yours.

Sometimes dirty talk backfires because it's just totally bizarre. Emily, 26, says, "This one guy I was seeing had really huge balls, and once in the middle of sex, he cried out, 'My balls are as big as Texas!' I actually started laughing. All my friends now refer to him as Fatty McBig-Balls." Jill, 30, has also been a victim of puzzling dirty talk: "My first boyfriend once told me in the middle of sex how much he loved 'slapping skins' with me. I didn't even know what that meant—I thought he was asking for a hand job." Confusing a woman midscrew will definitely turn her off. Though on the bright side, it'll certainly make you memorable.

The trickiest dirty talk of all might be sharing your fantasies. Some women love talking through a smutty scenario, but some things are probably best left unsaid. Jessica, 29, relayed the following exchange with her boyfriend of three months, Brian:

Brian: "You like my dick?"

Jessica: "Yes, yes, I love it!"

Brian: "You think it's big?"

Jessica: "Mmm, yes, it's so big!"

Brian: "Yeah, you want to have 10 guys at once, don't you?"

"I broke down and started to cry," Jessica says. She found the exchange so creepy that, soon after, she and Brian were no longer hooking up—or even speaking at all.

Explains Megan Fleming, founder of the sexual health program at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City, "Dirty talk can go south if one partner feels scared by what the other is into. Sometimes, even in a monogamous relationship, fantasy should be private." So if your fantasy is, say, her and your ex in a threesome with a paraplegic midget, keep it to yourself.

The Good Dirt

Some types of sex talk are virtually no-fail. One is narrative: simply and vividly describing what's happening—or about to happen—in the sack. "One of my favorite things is when a guy talks slowly through everything he's going to do to me right before he does it. The anticipation drives me *crazy*," says Allie, 29. "If he says, 'I'm gonna make you scream,' that's generally exactly what happens." Similarly, if a guy tells us how much he loves it when we're doing something to him, it turns us on, too. "I love when a guy says I look sexy when I'm going down on him," says Amy, 25. "Even though he's the one getting the pleasure, it makes me so hot to hear him tell me how hard I make him." This puts the focus on the moment, magnifying your every move and our every reaction.

> "I LOVE WHEN A GUY DESCRIBES EVERYTHING HE'S DOING TO ME."

Similarly, any conversation that involves instruction is guaranteed to heat up the action, too. Now, if you're on the *receiving* end of these commands and suggestions, don't take them as criticism. When she screams, "Harder, faster," it doesn't mean you're doing something wrong; in fact, it probably means you're doing everything *right*. Giving instruction lets us have control, too, which is a major turn-on. "One night I started telling my boyfriend what to do from the moment we started hooking up," says Samantha, 26. "'Unbutton my shirt. Pull down my bra and circle my nipple with your tongue'...It was so hot to watch him do whatever I said, and I got exactly what I wanted."

But women are more than happy to take direction, too. Ultimately, we want to please you as much as you want to please us. Just be sure to speak with confidence. In fact, be demanding. "Lick my balls" may actually get you someplace, whereas, "Would you mind, maybe, just this once, perhaps licking my balls?" is just going to make her stifle a laugh.

The Last Word

Even if you and your girlfriend are comfortable sharing all your nasty thoughts with each other, there's one more thing you should bear in mind: What's said in bed stays in bed. As Lily, 24, says, "I don't want to finish up great sex and then discuss over dinner whether I *actually* want to be 'plowed into next week.' If I said it during a steamy moment, it should never be repeated once we're clothed."

For many women dirty talk provides that last push over the edge; it's the thing that brings us to orgasm after all our other senses have been worked up and we're ready to explode. We may not want to act on the things we say, but hearing them out loud enhances our fantasies and lets us get filthy between the sheets—ideally, without any consequences outside of them. So go ahead and open your mouth, and don't get freaked if she opens hers. After all, she won't bite. Unless, of course, you ask her to. ●

Language Barriers

Talking dirty can elevate your sex life to a new level. Sometimes, an incredibly confusing and uncomfortable level.



"I once slept with a guy who said nothing but, 'Ooh, girl,' over and over. At one point, while I was giving him head, I started hearing that song in my head—'Ooh, child, things are gonna get easier...'—and almost choked laughing." **Monica, 26**

"I hooked up with one guy who started saying, 'Hit me with your tits! Hit me with your tits!' My breasts are big, but I can't, like, put them in my hands and slap someone with them. I didn't understand what the hell he wanted me to do." **Ellen, 29**

"I briefly dated a British guy who pronounced the word 'fuck' like 'fook.' I wish I'd found it adorable or endearing, but it was honestly so distracting. 'Fook me! Fook me!' I had to stop sleeping with him because of it." **Aimee, 31**

"One guy in college said he wanted to lather me up with shampoo. We weren't even in the shower—we were on his bed. Did he think I was unclean? Did he really just get off on the smell of Herbal Essences? I didn't stick around to find out." **Sonia, 23**

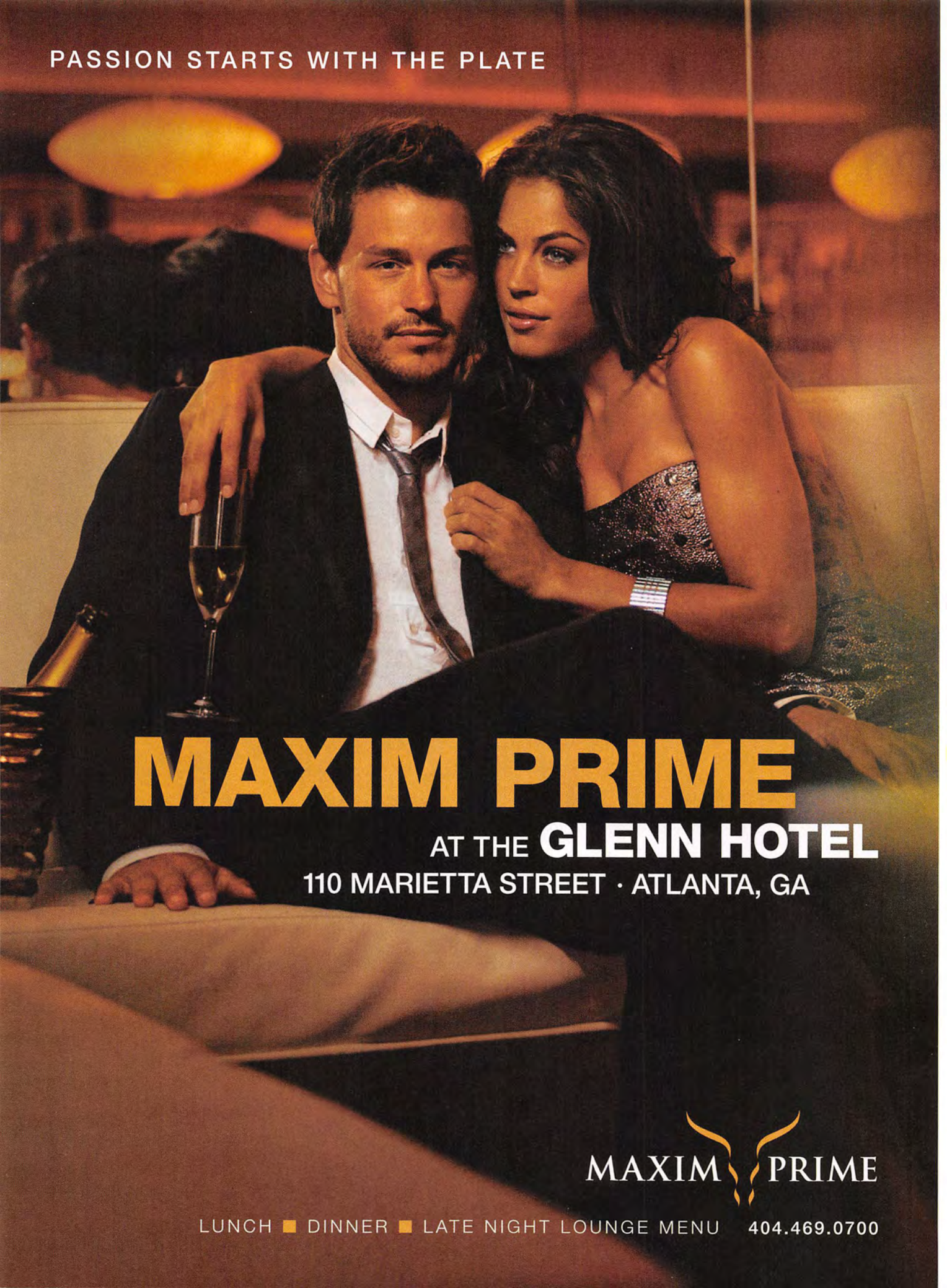
"Fooling around with my boyfriend once, I said, 'If you want me, you can have me.' I thought it sounded hot, but he was like, 'Oh, you think? I mean, we *are* naked already. And we've only had sex about 100 times before.' I guess it backfired." **Carlene, 27**



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BY JEFF PEARLMAN

The Resurrection

Four years ago Josh Hamilton was a junkie strung out in a trailer park. Today he's the Texas Rangers' star center fielder, poised for a breakout season no one could have predicted.

Eight seconds. That's the duration Josh Hamilton lives by—the span that saves his marriage and his baseball career and his money and, quite frankly, his life time after time after time.

Eight seconds. It's how long the Texas Rangers center fielder will allow a dark thought to percolate in his mind; how long he will listen to the siren call to pull off the road, withdraw $500, and find the nearest crack dealer. "If you go longer than eight," he says, "you're in trouble."

This is what Josh Hamilton regularly goes through, a constant, eight-second internal battle of good versus evil that frames the greatest personal comeback in the history of professional sports. The number one pick in baseball's June 1999 amateur draft, Hamilton spent much of the ensuing years as a cocaine and crack addict, blowing through his $3.96 million signing bonus; shrinking from a sinewy 215 pounds to a scrawny 180; kicking off most days with a 750-milliliter bottle of Crown Royal and ending them asleep and drugged out in a car or a ditch or a random tattoo parlor. By 2003 he'd dropped out of baseball completely. "I still think about one night when I took [Klonopin and cocaine], ran out of gas on the way to my dealer, and wound up 40 miles away from where I initially scored," he says. "I was walking down the middle of the street, pitch-black night, vehicles flying by. I didn't know how I got there or what I was doing. I was lost. Just lost."



"You're always chasing that first high, trying to relive it," says Hamilton of crack addiction.

Today the 27-year-old is the centerpiece of the Texas Rangers' efforts to rebuild, and is poised to become one of Major League Baseball's elite players. His return from the dead is more improbable than George Foreman's winning the heavyweight title 20 years after relinquishing the belt to Muhammad Ali; more astonishing than Andre Agassi's rebounding from a 141st world ranking in the late 1990s to capture five more Grand Slams. "It's the most insane, ridiculous story I've ever heard," says Jon Daniels, the Rangers' general manager, who acquired Hamilton from the Cincinnati Reds this past off-season. "You're not talking about someone who is fighting back from an injury. Josh was a crack addict who lived in the streets. You don't come back from that."

And yet here Josh Hamilton is—back from that, sitting in front of his locker at the Rangers' spring training complex in Surprise, Arizona. Less than three years after taking his final hit from a crack pipe, the man whom teammates at Athens Drive High School in Raleigh, North Carolina once nicknamed "Hammer" is not merely the feel-good story of the season, or the oft-clichéd "beacon of hope."

No, he is the unreal turning real. "My life," he says, "is nothing short of a miracle."

The Descent

I first met Josh Hamilton in April 1999, when I was sent to Raleigh to profile some 17-year-old high school kid one major-league scout was calling "the best prospect since Alex Rodriguez." Hyperbole be damned, young Josh was as all-American as apple pie. Neither a drinker nor a smoker, Hamilton had curly brown hair, midday-blue eyes, and a crooked Alan Jackson smile that made the Carolina girls swoon. He refused to curse, brag, loaf, or dose teammates with attitude. He even declined invitations to the Athens Drive senior prom, telling me, "I can't have anything bad happening to me ▸▸

PHOTOGRAPH, JASON TANAKA BLANEY





Hamilton during his rookie season with Cincinnati in 2007 (above) and as a minor-leaguer days before his 2001 car accident (left)

now. If I'm put in an awkward situation, there's too much on the line."

On the diamond, Hamilton was the best pure talent I'd ever witnessed. As a high school pitcher, the left-hander's fastball reached 96 mph. As a hitter, his senior year batting average was .529 with 13 home runs in 25 games. "He's better at this game than anyone I've ever seen in high school or college," John Thomas, his Athens Drive coach, said at the time.

In short, Hamilton was perfect.

Yet less than two years after the Tampa Bay Devil Rays selected Hamilton first overall, perfection died. On the morning of February 28, 2001, Josh and his parents, Tony and Linda Hamilton, were returning from a Devil Rays exhibition game to their Bradenton, Florida home when their Chevy Silverado pickup was demolished by a dump truck that had run a red light. Though both Tony and Linda were treated for serious injuries, Josh seemed to escape unscathed. In the ensuing weeks, however, he experienced excruciating back pain. That May, with his batting average at .180 for Double-A Orlando, Tampa Bay put him on the disabled list. Suddenly, a young man who knew only baseball found himself with pockets full of money and an endless reservoir of free time.

"That's when I started hanging out at the tattoo parlor," he says. "Some days I'd sit in the chair for eight hours and get two or three tattoos. In hindsight, I don't know what I was thinking." (He now has 26 tattoos, which he rarely displays.) It was during this period that Hamilton experienced two firsts in a single night. While visiting a strip club with some tattoo parlor pals, he drank his first alcoholic beverage and snorted his first line of cocaine. Hamilton will never forget the feel of that initial high. Energetic. Euphoric. When the buzz vanished, he instantly craved more.

The Devil Rays, meanwhile, were concerned that the injuries Hamilton sustained in the car accident had steeped him in depression. In July the team sent him to a sports psychologist, in whom he confided about his experimentation with cocaine. Tampa Bay immediately had Hamilton placed in the Betty Ford Center, but he checked himself out after eight days.

And so began a pattern—Hamilton would use drugs, fail a drug test, be suspended, be sent to rehab, leave rehab, use drugs. Team officials could only watch helplessly for the next year as the kid with Ken Griffey Jr.'s power, Craig Biggio's intensity, and Tony Gwynn's instincts sank further into the darkest of lifestyles.

By spring training 2003, after refusing to show for mandatory thrice-weekly drug tests, Hamilton was banned from professional baseball. With nothing left to do in Florida, he moved back up to Raleigh and settled into the life of a junkie. He spent most of his days roaming the city's streets, trying to find a familiar dealer to hook him up. He would go three or four nights without sleeping, showering, or changing his clothes.

In November 2004, Hamilton temporarily sobered up and married Katie Chadwick, a high school girlfriend who thought his drugged-out days were behind him. "I thought when he said, 'It's over,' that meant it's over," she told *The Washington Post*. "But when he had his first relapse, I knew it was going to be a long road."

She had no idea. It was around this time that Hamilton first tried crack. "It consumes you in so many ways," he now says. "I can't describe how badly I wanted more and more of it." In July 2005, with Katie seven months pregnant, Hamilton hit his lowest low. After a long night on the pipe, he awoke in a trailer surrounded by eight or nine strung-out druggies, none of whom he recognized. Instead of snapping out of his haze, He lent his truck to a drug dealer to buy more crack. The man never returned, and a humiliated Hamilton had to call his wife to pick him up.

Two months later, when Katie brought ▸▸

Return of the Living Dead

How incredible is Josh Hamilton's comeback? Let's compare with some of the greatest of all time.



Lance Armstrong
The cyclist was given a 40 percent chance of surviving testicular cancer in 1996, but he was cancer-free and back on the banana buster inside a year. He pedaled off a record seven straight Tour de France wins from 1999 to 2005 *and* made it OK for adults to wear cheap rubber bracelets.



John Travolta
In the early '90s, Travolta was drowning in a sea of *Look Who's Talking* sequels when Quentin Tarantino saved his career by casting him as hitman Vincent Vega in *Pulp Fiction*. Within a few years, he was the 50-and-over crowd's favorite talkies star—a title he has yet to relinquish.



Carlos Santana
The guitarist's salsa-jazz-rock band had dropped out of popular music by the '80s. Then, in 1999, he released *Supernatural*, an album of collaborations with young stars that won eight Grammys. Nine years later the lead single, "Smooth," is still stuck in your brain like a malignant tumor.



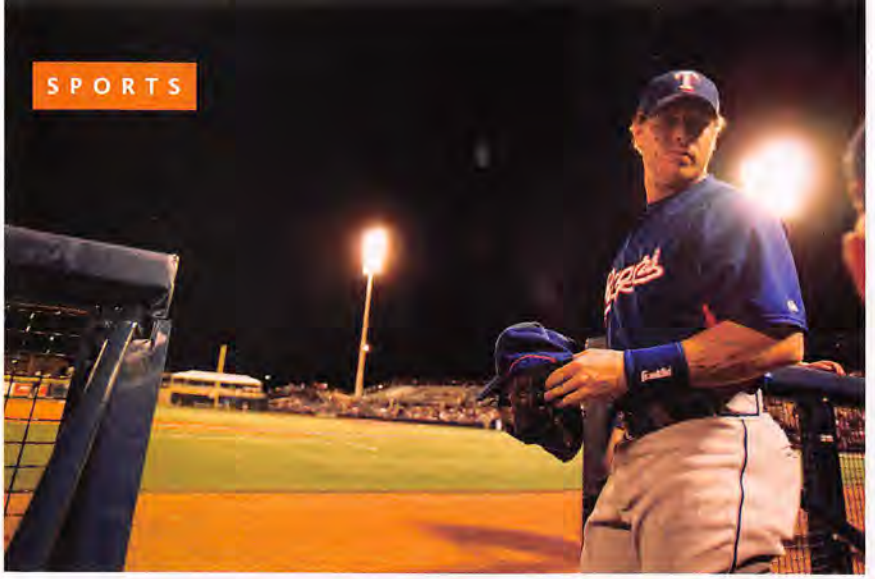
George Washington
In the summer of 1776, the general wrote to Congress that soldiers were deserting him by whole regiments. Six months later he sneaked his troops across the Delaware River and took the redcoats by surprise...and that's why we have SUVs, McDonald's, and video games today.—*Joey Arak*



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"The joy has completely returned," Hamilton says of his second year in the majors.

the couple's daughter, Sierra, home from the hospital, she sent Josh out to pick up something from the drugstore. Hours later he was found at a nearby bar, completely high. "What I did to my family," he says, "is inexcusable."

Then, that October, something in Josh Hamilton snapped. Broke, weak, and desperate, he slunk up to his Grandma Mary's front door, strung out on crack, 180 pounds of skin hanging off his 6'4" frame. Mary took him in, and the next morning, over breakfast, fired away: "You're killing yourself. You're killing everybody who loves you...And you're killing me."

"That's when the light finally came on," Hamilton says. "I'd had people tell me stuff like that before, but hearing it from my grandmother really hit me." A few days later, Hamilton used drugs for the final time and entered a treatment program of his own volition.

"It was get clean," he says, "or die."

The Prodigal Son

Hamilton did not die.

In June 2006, following eight months of sobriety, Major League Baseball granted Hamilton permission to participate in spring training. Prior to reinstatement, he had to show that he was clean (once again submitting to drug tests three times a week), committed to getting back in shape, and able to hold a steady job. To prove himself, Hamilton went all out. He attended regular recovery meetings and church services, rarely left the house alone, and had his wife handle all the couple's money.

Eventually, he moved to Clearwater, Florida to work at a baseball academy, the Winning Inning. There, under the supervision of a former pro player named Roy Silver, Hamilton mowed the lawns, unclogged toilets, and took out the trash. In his spare time, he did nothing but hit. "It came back pretty naturally," he says. "It's something I've always been able to do."

He alerted Tampa Bay to his progress, and soon general manager Andrew Friedman was in touch with Bud Selig, petitioning the commissioner for Hamilton's full reinstatement. "We wanted [Josh] back in the game because he needed it for himself," Friedman says. "That was the most important thing, and we expressed that to the commissioner's office. You absolutely have to root for Josh to succeed."

After weighing the evidence, Selig agreed, and that summer Hamilton played 15 games for the Devil Rays' Class-A Hudson Valley club. But he hit .260—proof to the Rays that their once can't-miss kid had probably missed for good. Following the season, Tampa Bay decided to leave Hamilton off its 40-man roster, meaning he could be signed by any other franchise in the annual Rule 5 draft. With little to lose, the Chicago Cubs nabbed Hamilton, then traded him to Cincinnati. "I don't think we saw it as a risk," says Johnny Narron, a former Reds coach. "We knew how much raw talent Josh had. So why not go for it?"

Hamilton arrived at the Reds' Sarasota, Florida spring training complex the following February in the best shape of his life. The one-time addict now weighed a solid 230. He hit one monstrous shot after another, tormenting pitchers to the tune of a .476 exhibition batting average. It was as if all those lost years were merely a bad dream, as if he had stepped right out of high school and into the major leagues. On the opening-day roster, Hamilton was listed as the fourth outfielder. "I don't think people understand the sort of odds Josh overcame to make it," says Eddie Guardado, a former Reds reliever. "My brother was a heroin addict who died from drugs. I've seen how it reaches out, grabs you, and doesn't let go. So for Josh to return from all those years of not playing baseball—having barely picked up a bat—and perform at that level, well, it tells you what kind of player he is."

> "JOSH WAS A CRACK ADDICT. YOU DON'T COME BACK FROM THAT."

On April 2, 2007—nearly eight years after being drafted—Hamilton finally made his major-league debut. As he strolled toward the plate as a pinch hitter, the crowd at Cincinnati's Great American Ball Park gave him a 22-second standing ovation. Though his rookie season was cut short by a handful of injuries, Hamilton was one of the Reds' top players, batting .292 with 19 home runs and 47 RBI in 90 games.

From afar, members of the Texas Rangers' front office watched in amazement. When it was time to beef up the team's outfield, Daniels called the Reds and offered Edinson Volquez, one of baseball's top young pitchers. Though the Reds were saddened to lose Hamilton, it was a deal they had to make. "At first I was a bit surprised," says Hamilton. "But when I got here I saw what type of team it was. The guys are so welcoming, I feel like I'm in high school again. The joy has completely returned."

The Rangers, meanwhile, have high hopes. They expect Hamilton to start 130–140 games in center field, and see the potential for a .290, 30 home run, 100 RBI breakout season. At press time, his performance in spring training was living up to expectations: Through his first 12 games, Hamilton's OPS was 1.747. "There's no question Josh is one of the great talents in the game," says Daniels. "You take one look at him and see that this man is made to be a baseball player. At his best, the sky is the limit."

Hamilton's life outside baseball is quiet. His internal battle is unrelenting, making him ill-suited to the postgame pursuits of the average big-league ballplayer. When his teammates hit bars and clubs—even restaurants—at night, he goes home to his family. When he needs to, he revisits James 4:7, the verse that helped pull him through his darkest days: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." Resisting is not easy, but Hamilton has seen the alternative and knows it's not an option. Today Josh Hamilton knows who he is. The only question left to be answered is, what can he do on the field? ●

PHOTOGRAPH: JASON TANAKA BLANEY (TOP LEFT)



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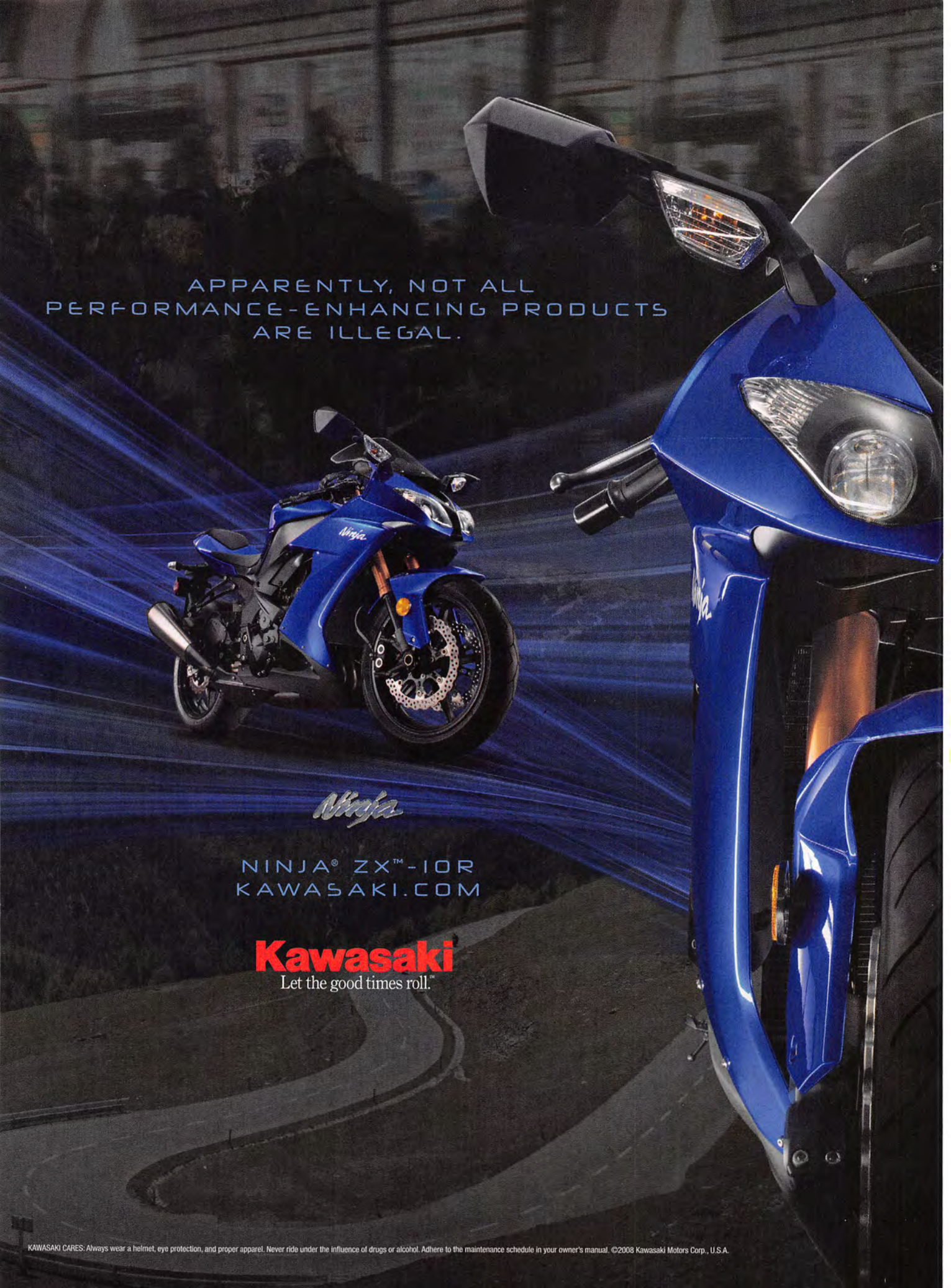
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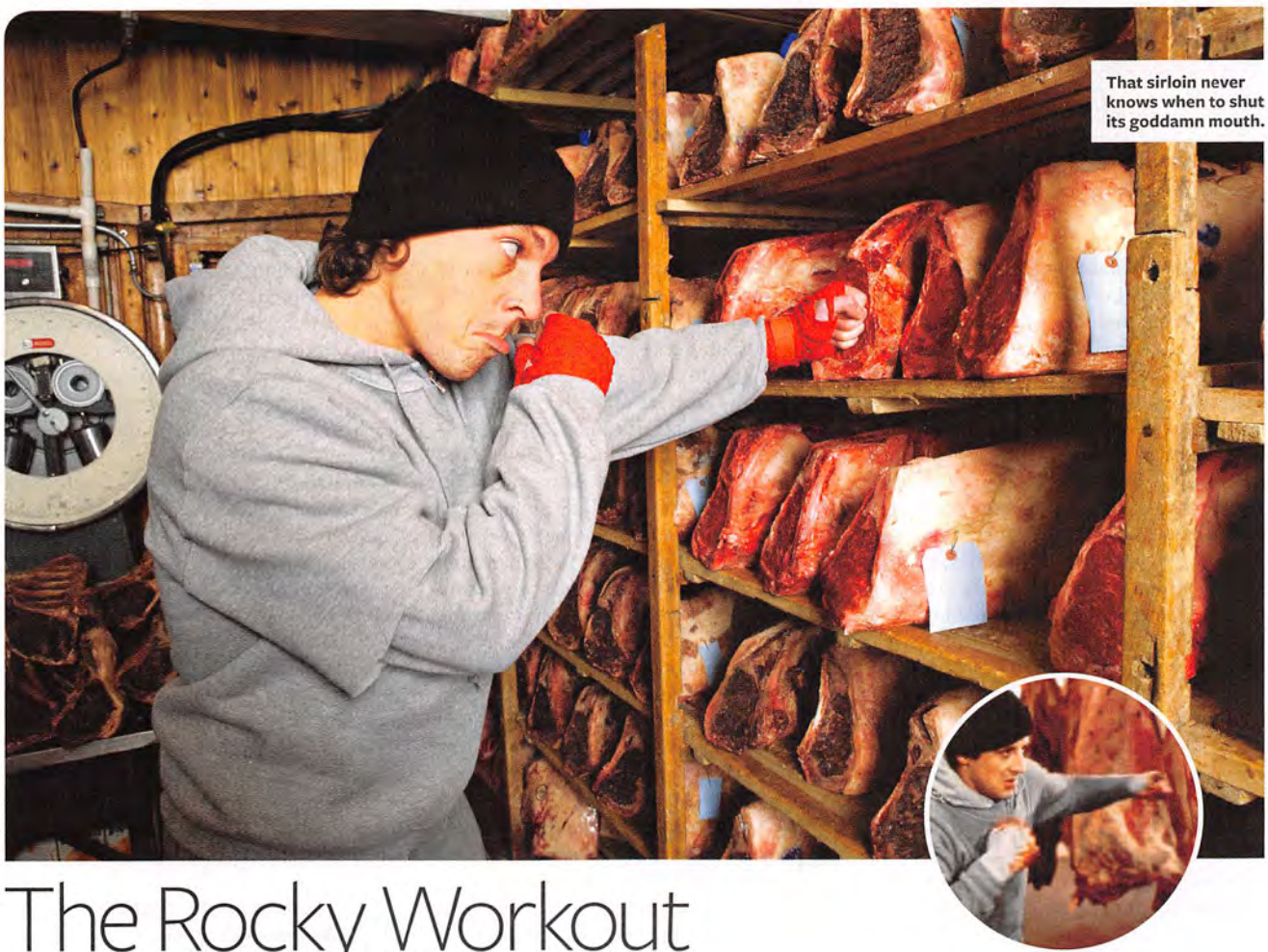
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BY BILL SCHULZ



That sirloin never knows when to shut its goddamn mouth.

The Rocky Workout

Can a guy learn to box by adhering to a training regimen based solely on vintage Balboa montages?

Upon taking in a 15-hour *Rocky* movie marathon on TNT, it occurred to me that Sylvester Stallone gets older yet somehow buffer with each Roman numeral added to his sweaty saga. I wondered: Could Balboa's unorthodox training routines transform me from a keyboard-pecking pansy into a jaw-crushing monster? Full of enough moxie (and Mr. Pibb soda) to find out, I hired Dean Bellantoni, co-owner of LA Boxing in Secaucus, N.J., to cram as many *Rocky* techniques into a workout routine as possible, and then to set up a fight with some impossibly huge bad guy to gauge my ripped results. I also enlisted George Foreman, Dolph Lundgren (Ivan Drago himself!) and Bruce Silverglade, owner of legendary Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn, to give expert input on the ridiculous exercises I'd perform. OK, enough talk—time to throw on a too-tight gray sweat suit and find me some eye of the tiger!

1 The Rockout: Beat Your Meat

As seen in: *Rocky*

The scene: When Rocky entered Paulie's Shamrock Meats workstation, the slabs of beef never knew what hit 'em. So would I whack the meat, or would the meat whack me?

Gaining access to a meat locker took a lot of calling and begging until I finally got the OK from 81-year-old New York City steakhouse Gallagher's. (If it doesn't work for you, the beef aisle at your local grocery store will have to do.) After I did some jumping jacks to get my pulse and body temp up (who'd have thought that meat lockers are cold?), my trainer shouted commands like "jab!" and "upper cut!" and I let loose on some aged sirloin. Holy Lord, did it hurt. A few punches into this workout, I found that my hand swelled up quicker than Kirstie Alley attacking an Arby's spread.

I moved on from the aged stuff and found that the fresher flesh gave a little bit more, but I couldn't help but yelp whenever I hit bone. After 30 minutes, I worked up a decent sweat bruising a bovine that would soon yield eight 20-ounce steaks for the day's lunch crowd, but my inability to maintain a rhythm with the constantly moving cadavers, coupled with my aforementioned agony, did not a good workout make. Stallone himself has said that he permanently flattened his knuckles when he got a little too method acty while filming the famous scene.

The overall experience—apart from kind of learning how to play through pain—left my hands in tatters and seriously had me considering a vegetarian lifestyle change.

I didn't see the pros of Rocky's meat-pounding session, and George Foreman agrees with my grade-D assessment: "There's no upside to this—especially if it's aged, I would just eat it," he says. "A water bag is better on your hands than meat or a leather punching bag." Gee, George, glad you told me that *after* I turned my knuckles into bloody hamburger. ▸▸

LOCATION PROVIDED BY GALLAGHER'S STEAK HOUSE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARIUS BUGGE



Someone just heard about Macy's one-day sale!



Bestiality at its worst. Or its finest?



Later they remade the *From Here to Eternity* scene.

2 The Rockout: Be a Step Monster
As seen in: *Rocky I, II, V,* and *Balboa*
The scene: The 72-step sprint up to the Philadelphia Museum of Art—a staple in nearly every *Rocky* flick—that has been replicated by each fanny-packed tourist visiting the city of brotherly love since *Rocky* premiered in 1976.

My New York equivalent was the slightly less landmarky, and certainly less steppy, Bethesda Terrace stairs in Central Park. I expected to deal with burning quads, but a few ascents into my workout, I was dealing with an unexpected issue: my intimate areas were chafed raw by my cheap-ass Rocky sweat suit. But ailing areolae aside, the steps provided a healthy strain on not only my legs but the overall core of the body. This felt like a legitimate workout!

Still, I couldn't help feeling I could do the same thing in a gym while watching a very special episode of *Two and a Half Men*. And according to Foreman, I should trust my gut. "Stairs are murderous," he says. "My legs were so sore from stair running that I almost messed up my fight with Joe Frazier in Jamaica. Stick to the StairMaster—much better on your knees."

3 The Rockout: Choke Your Chicken
As seen in: *Rocky II*
The scene: When a befuddled Rocky asks Mickey why he is being asked to chase a chicken, the lovable grump replies in part, "Because chicken chasing is how we always used to train in the old days. If you can catch this thing, you can catch greased lightning!"

The ability to catch greased lightning seemed important to me as far as ass-beating skills go, so I headed off to Brooklyn's La Gallina live poultry market to match my footwork against some fast and furious feathers. Stepping inside the building, I was immediately greeted by the sour smells of coagulated blood and the jarring sight—particularly at 10 in the morning—of two hens being mercilessly relieved of their heads by the market's proprietor. I immediately wanted to abandon this task but figured maybe the smell of blood was all part of the toughening process. I decided to trust in Mickey's wisdom.

The proprietor plucked me a caged feathery friend, and I headed to a nearby yard to begin the chase. One problem: Foghorn wouldn't flee. In fact, the seemingly high hen barely moved. I felt like a complete jackass trying to chase something that just stood there. The only sweating I did was inspired by viewing more butchering once I returned my doomed pal to his tiny little cage. Was it me, or is this chicken-chasing exercise totally clucked?

Silverglade from Gleason's Gym leans toward the latter. "Chasing chickens won't do you any good. *Rocky* won the Academy Award for scenes like this. Like when they cut his eyelid in the ring? That wouldn't be done anywhere in the world. It's against the law!" Foreman is not so fast to discount barnyard pals as workout partners but tweaked Balboa's choice in animal: "I wouldn't chase chickens—I would chase cattle. They're unpredictable and if you can get them to go where you want them to go? Then you know you've got yourself in good shape. It takes a lot to defeat wild animals." Except maybe if you're holding a hatchet.

4 The Rockout: The Man-a-Thon
As seen in: *Rocky III*
The scene: While considering which soundtrack single I should download onto my iPod while undertaking this workout, I decided *Rocky V*'s, "Measure of a Man," by Elton John, might be the most appropriate. The reason? Forget, well, every scene in *Top Gun*, because *Rocky III* boasts the most unintentionally homoerotic vignette in movie history.

After Balboa finally defeats his buff nemesis turned trainer Apollo Creed in wind sprints along the shores of the Pacific, the glistening, short-shorts-sporting duo celebrate by jumping up and down while lovingly embracing in the water...all shot in sexy slo-mo. Uncomfortable bonus: Apollo wears a half-tee during their inaugural sprint.

In trying to replicate this scene, my jogging outfit couldn't have been more accurately ballbaring...Unfortunately, the beach wasn't anything like Rocky's choice of track. Dressed in little more than a napkin, I raced with my Apollo stand-in (hunky personal trainer Tracy Mazyck) on the needle-laden sands of Coney Island with bitter February winds in our faces.

Frostbite notwithstanding, the repetitive bursts of energy worked my heart like a long jog never could. All the muscles in your body—from feet to quads to torso—are forced to work overtime to keep you stabilized when running on sand. My lungs ached for air by the third 100-yard dash, but it was a good "getting strong now" kind of ache. My calf musle burned so badly I wondered if they had somehow contracted gonorrhea (which wouldn't surprise me considering where we were running.) Is beach running with a man-friend the workout of champions?

"I'm afraid to say I've run on the beach with a male partner while wearing short shorts," says Lundgren. "It's good to run on sand, because you're working your calves more." Foreman agrees: "Running on the beach is the best exercise for your legs. Spend eight days running on the sand—no more than that—and you will have some muscles that'll be good for a boxing match. After a few toe-to-toe rounds, level street running will do you no good at all." Silverglade's down with the sand program as well. When asked whether he tells any of his boxers to lovingly embrace after races, he replies: "Every single one of them. It brings mutual respect." I *think* he was kidding.

5 The Rockout: Tour de Mick
As seen in: *Rocky III*
The scene: Take 10 feet of rope, wrap it around one monosyllabic Italian, tie the other end to an old guy on a bike, and go.

This calf-buster was surprisingly easy, till my Mickey stand-in, Jack Cahill, started messing with the brakes. After just six minutes, my legs were Jell-O, and the rope burns made my skin as raw as Burgess Meredith's and twice as dead. "Pulling anything is great," says Foreman, "because when the bigger guys try to lay on you, pushing 'em off you wears you out." Silverglade totally disagrees: "Pulling weight builds big, heavy muscles in your legs, and that'll slow you down." I'm with him: Any excuse not to tow this ball-busting senior is OK with me.



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"I have something in my eye. It's your fist."

THE MAIN EVENT

6 **The Rockout: Jay-Rocking**
As seen in: *Rocky IV*
The scene: Balboa ditches a car full of KGB agents by zigzagging on a jog, sending the car crashing into a snowdrift. *Maxim* thought it'd be neat if I transposed this move into something known as "dodging traffic." I dutifully ran onto Central Park West at rush hour and was neither wounded nor all that winded—but, man, was my pulse off the charts! "There are a lot of cons to dodging traffic," says Lundgren. "But pros? You're looking death in the eye. When you walk into the ring, you have to be ready to die. *[Speaking as Ivan Drago]* In order to kill me, he's going to have to stand in front of me, and in order to stand in front of me, he's got to be willing to die himself."

TRAINING WAS OVER. IT WAS GO TIME. UPON arriving at LA Boxing's gym in Secaucus, I couldn't have been more horrified by my opponent: Glyn Jenkins, a hulking, 230-pound mass of former amateur boxing champion. The bell rang, and I stepped into the ring ready to deploy every weapon in my ass-kicking arsenal... and it quickly went downhill from there.

The fight lasted all of three rounds due to the fact that Jenkins mercifully toyed with me like a house cat tormenting a rat, while I gave him everything I had.

If any of the Rocky routines did me any service at all, it was probably the stair climb and beach run (with the bike pull and car dodge tying at a distant second). The heavy cardio training added some extra muscle to my legs, allowing me to stay standing for longer than I should have. My jabs, on the other hand, couldn't have been weaker. Thanks for nothing, Gallagher's.

Here's the blow-by-blow: Halfway into the first round, Jenkins grazed my head and my brain rattled to the point of nauseating dizziness. I went down twice in the second and my trainer Dean threw in the towel in the third. I sat down, bleeding, and reflected. LA Boxing taught me that pugilism is one hell of a workout, while Stallone taught me that without his admitted love for human growth hormone, there's no way Rocky would've beaten Apollo—much less me—with his dumb-ass routines.

So, *Maxim*, now that it's over, any interest in a movie montage training regimen I'm calling "The 9 1/2 *Weeks* Workout"? ●



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THE SCREEN GODDESS NEXT DOOR

SHE MADE YOUR HEART POUND ON *24* AND CRACKED YOU UP IN *OLD SCHOOL*. NOW, WITH TWO KILLER MOVIES ABOUT TO HIT THEATERS, ELISHA CUTHBERT IS STAKING HER CLAIM AS HOLLYWOOD'S NEW QUEEN.

BY PATRICK CARONE PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES WHITE



MOVIES ARE FANTASIES, AND SHE MIGHT just be today's ultimate fantasy girl. With smoldering eyes, lush lips, and voluptuous curves, Elisha Cuthbert is as stunning as any classic beauty from the golden age. But don't make the mistake of thinking this two-time *Maxim* cover girl got into the business to stand around looking gorgeous. "I do enjoy beating the crap out of bad guys," she says.

The Canadian transplant has nailed roles in just about every genre. Most famously, she was Jack Bauer's troubled daughter on *24*, Luke Wilson's high school conquest in *Old School*, and the object of Emile Hirsch's affection in *The Girl Next Door*. On the lowbrow yet highly entertaining end of the spectrum, she was almost turned into a human candle in the remake of *House of Wax* (costarring real-life party pal Paris Hilton) and mercilessly abused in the controversial torture-porn flick *Captivity*. So there you have it: Elisha stars in high-profile films, rolls with fancy friends, and even has a pro athlete ex (New York Ranger Sean Avery), yet she somehow manages to keep herself out of the tabloids and in Hollywood's coolest projects, including the upcoming *My Sassy Girl* and *The Six Wives of Henry Lefay*. Seems like she's got a handle on some of that old-time movie magic.

THE ENTIRE *MAXIM* STAFF AGREED *OLD SCHOOL* SHOULD BE ON OUR "300 MOVIES YOU MUST SEE BEFORE YOU DIE!" LIST. DID YOU KNOW ALL ALONG IT WOULD BECOME A CLASSIC?
I had no idea except for the fact that I was working with a phenomenal cast. Comedies are real fun, but I get so nervous that I don't sleep.

DID WILL FERRELL ACT CRAZY ON SET?
He was really reserved, but as soon as he got in front of a camera, he became a different person. I actually stole a few things from Frank the Tank for my new movie, *My Sassy Girl*. My character is pretty much drunk the entire time.

IS THAT TOUGH TO PULL OFF?
Playing drunk on-camera is difficult, but it's also liberating. I remember wondering, *How can I do this without wanting to be drunk for real?*



TELL US WHY WE SHOULD SEE THIS MOVIE.
It's a remake of one of the highest-grossing Korean films ever. It's about a nice guy who falls in love with someone who's a *little* bit crazy.

IN THE KOREAN VERSION, THERE ARE SOME PRETTY WILD SCENES, RANGING FROM SEXY TO GROSS. ARE THEY HERE, TOO?
We don't have the vomiting scene, but I did slap my poor costar Jesse Bradford in the face a few times. My character speaks her mind, which was fun to play, because I'm usually gentler with my words. It's my Canadian nature. We're generally polite and don't like confrontation.

IS THAT WHAT HELPS YOU KEEP A LOW PROFILE?
I live my life, but I always stay conscious of the fact that the press is going to do what they're going to do. Things do get said about me, but if I worried about what people made up or speculated, I'd go insane. Especially with the Internet and blogging.

HAVE ANY BLOGS REALLY MADE YOU ANGRY?
One site said that I had a sex tape. That one crossed the line. Other than that, it takes a lot to rattle me. But since this is *Maxim*, I should apologize that there isn't a sex tape.

THANKS, WE APPRECIATE IT.
I've talked to older actors like Kiefer Sutherland who say this celebrity-obsessed insanity comes and goes. In the '80s there was the Brat Pack with Kiefer and his buddies, but then it died.

HAS KIEFER TOLD YOU ANY WILD STORIES?
None that I could say, 'cause then he'd kill me.

WILL *24* EVER MAKE IT TO THE BIG SCREEN? WE'VE BEEN HEARING RUMORS FOR YEARS.
I haven't heard anything. I think they're more focused on the season at hand. I'd love for my character to come back, though.

OK, THEN WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT *THE SIX WIVES OF HENRY LEFAY*?
Tim Allen plays my deceased father, and I have to deal with his ex-wives while planning his funeral. It was hard to stay focused around him. When he gets on a roll, the comedy pours out.

IS THERE ANY ROLE FROM A CLASSIC FILM THAT YOU'D LIKE TO TACKLE?
There would be something really interesting about doing an all-female version of *Glengarry GlenRoss*. I think that would be a cool concept.

WHICH CHARACTER WOULD YOU PLAY?
Al Pacino's. I'm drawn to lunatics.

HAVE YOU HAD ANY AWKWARD EXPERIENCES AS A MOVIEGOER?
I watched *Superbad* with my mom, dad, and kid brother. I was laughing hysterically when he was drawing all the male genitalia pictures. My parents were like, "You're in front of your 16-year-old brother!" By the way, my pet peeve is when a guy falls asleep halfway through a movie. If that happens, there's no second date.

ANY OTHER INSTANT TURNOFFS?
I've had guys try to pick me up in my car. No thanks. I should invest in tinted windows.

OK, SO WHAT *DO* YOU GO FOR?
As long as you love your mother and don't fall asleep during movies, you've got a shot. ●

CUTHBERT'S CLASSICS

Elisha sounds off on her all-time top guy flicks.

1985
Weird Science "Kelly LeBrock never gets naked, so on *The Girl Next Door*, I said, 'If she can be that hot, I can do this with my clothes on.'"



1987
Full Metal Jacket "Kubrick's best. I got it for my little brother for Christmas, and he loved it. I like to keep him educated on films."



1994
Pulp Fiction "This is a big one. The part where Bruce Willis saves Ving Rhames from Zed was, like, the most shocking thing I'd ever seen."



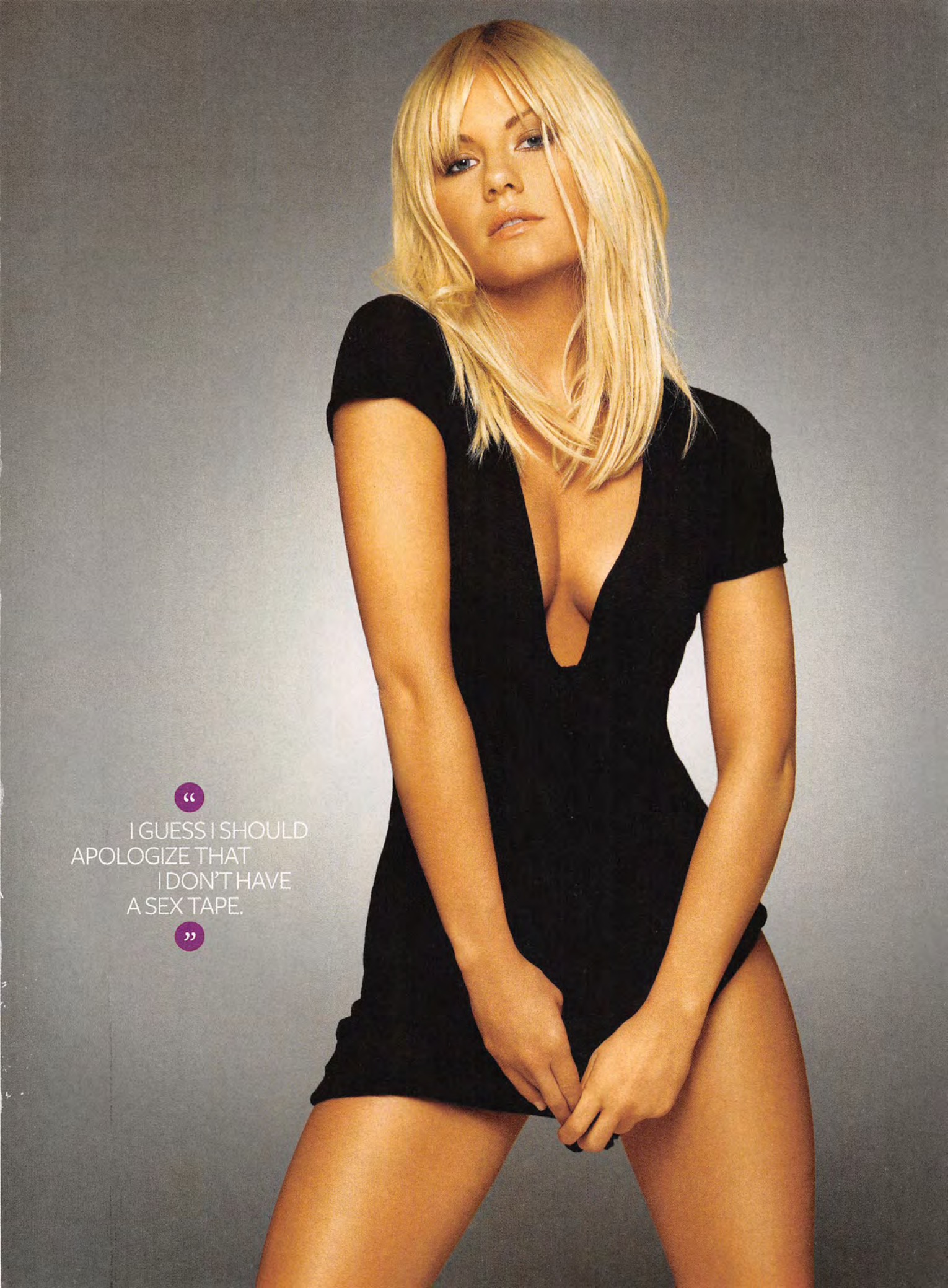
1999
Fight Club "David Fincher is a genius, and *Fight Club* is the only film I've seen more than twice in a theater. Visually, it's a piece of art."

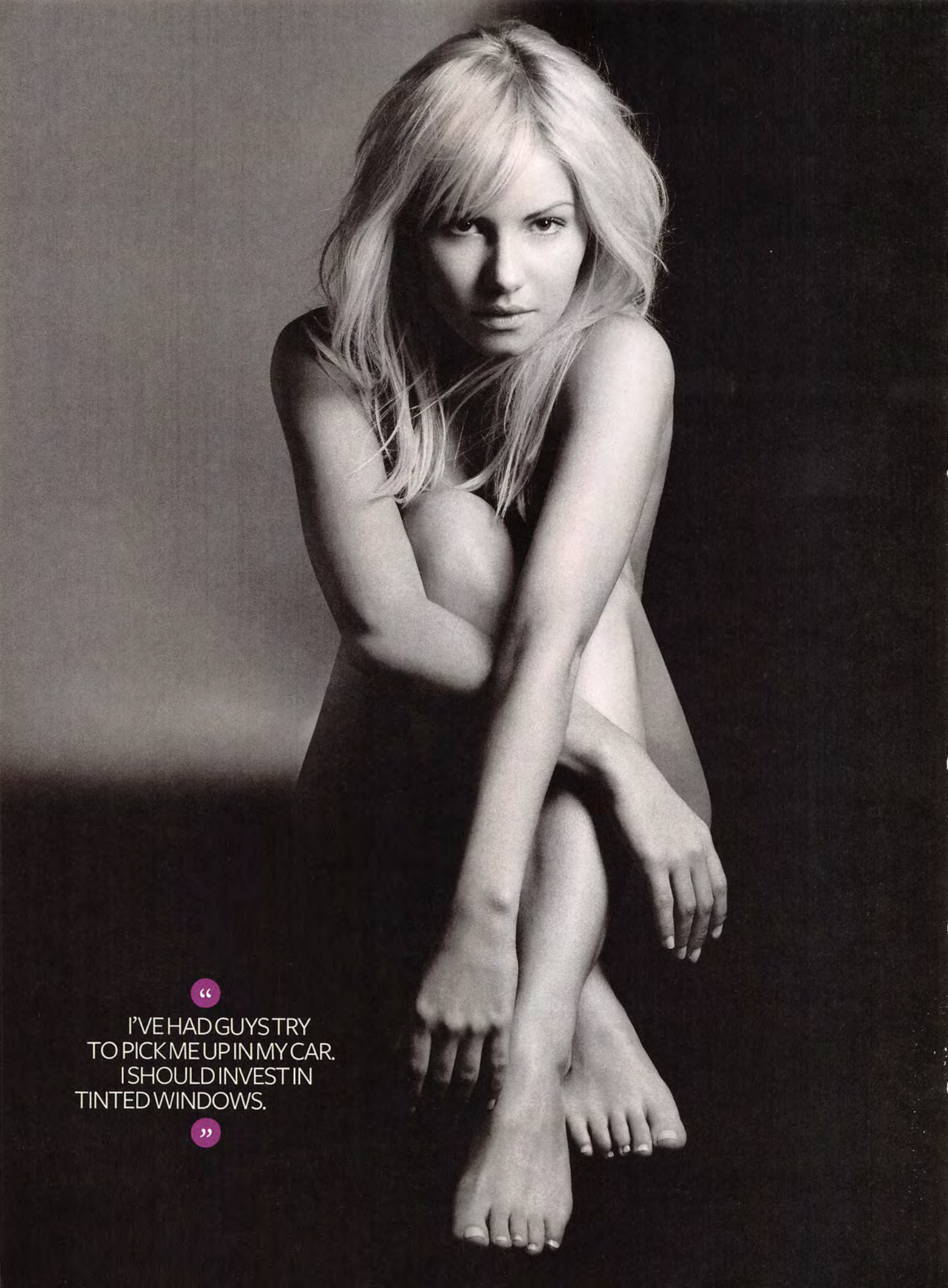


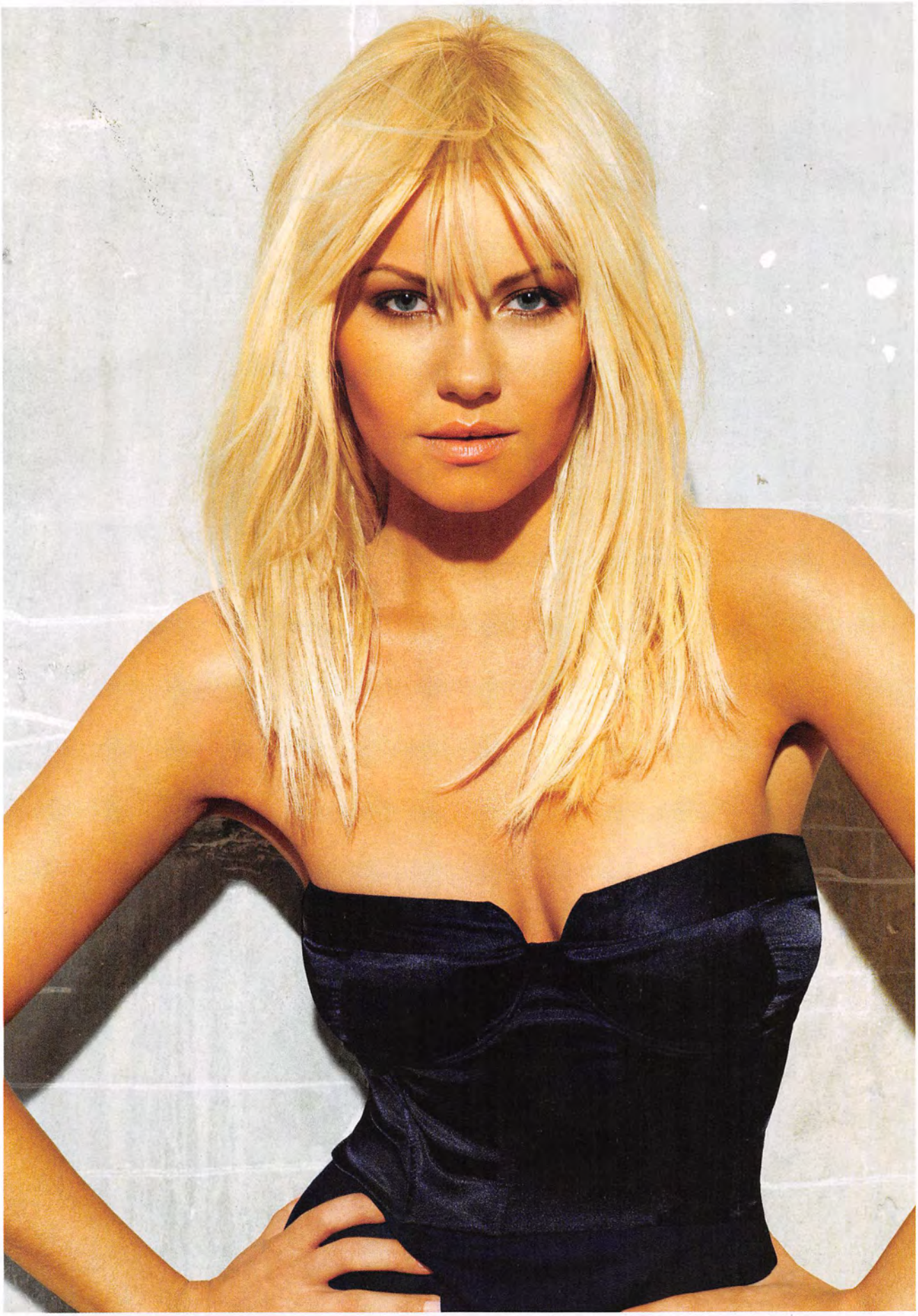
2007
No Country for Old Men "Javier Bardem? Probably the scariest villain of all time. It's so interesting—especially the way it ends."



STYLING, TARA SWENNEN AT THE WALL GROUP; HAIR, JENNY CHO AT THE WALL GROUP; MAKEUP, MAI QUYNH AT THE WALL GROUP; MANICURE, MARSHA BIALO FOR CHINA GLAZE; PROP STYLING, DAVID ROSS FOR ARTMIX BEAUTY; T-SHIRT, RAILS; DRESS (OPENER), ROSA CHA

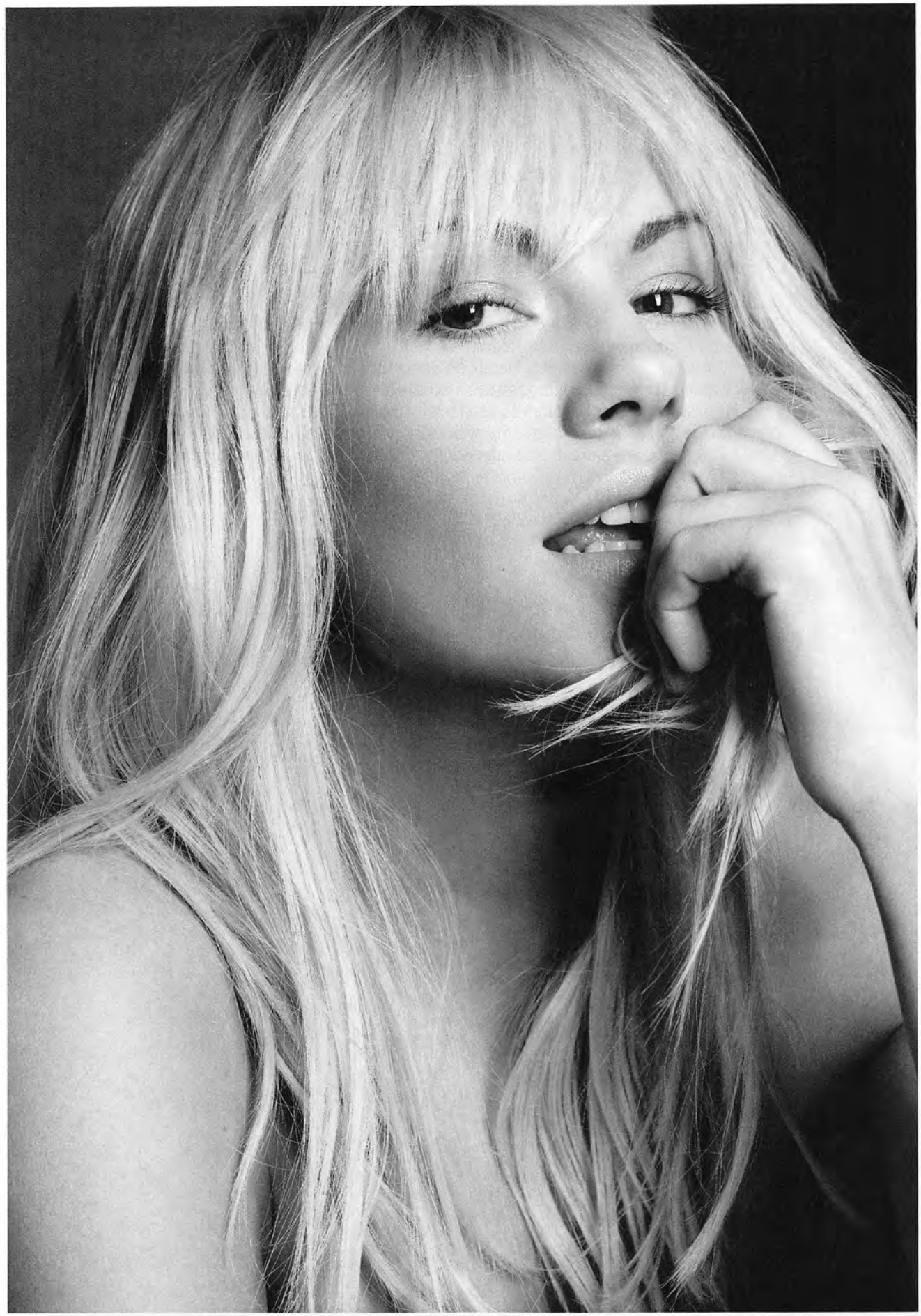

“
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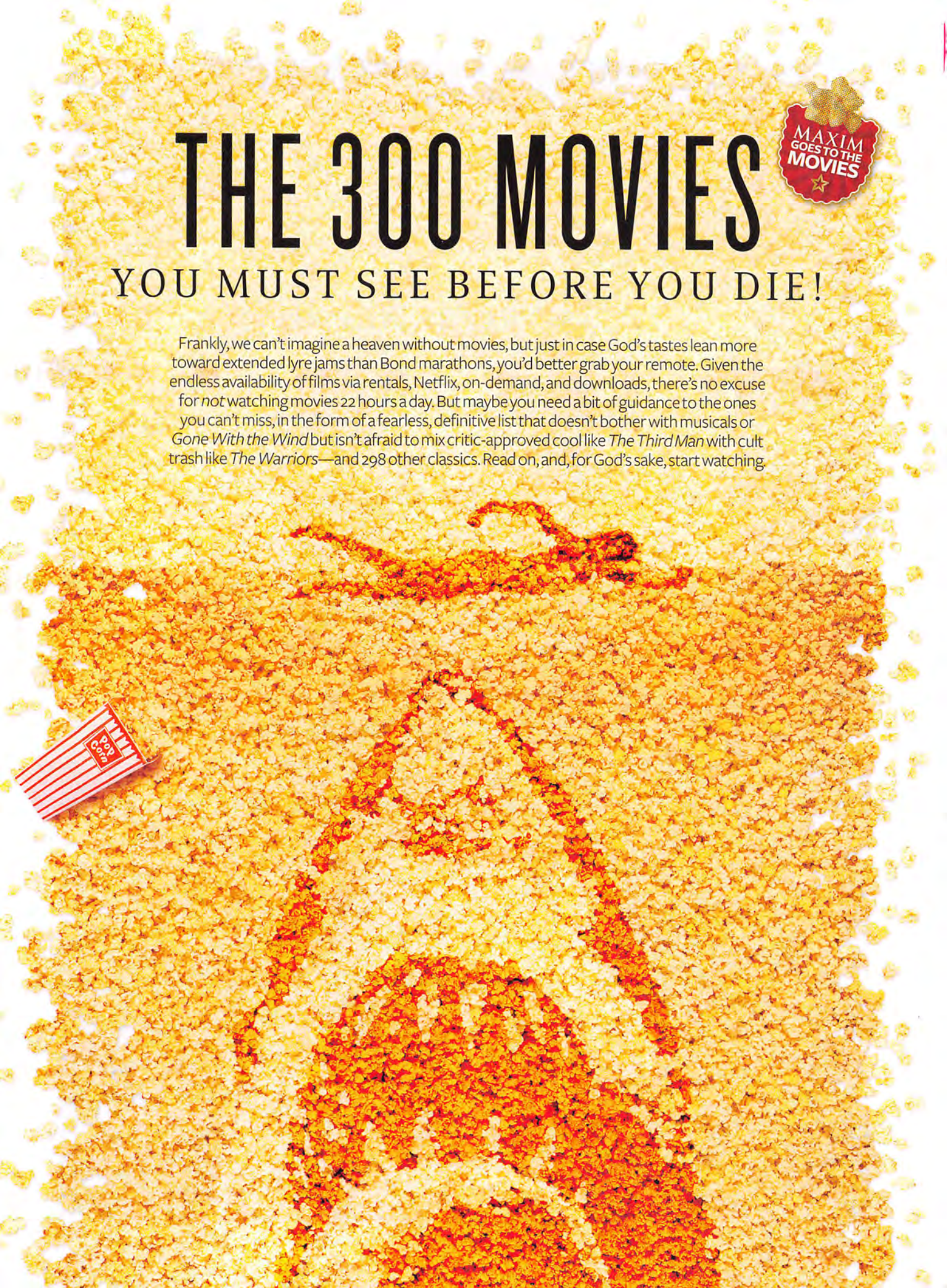


THE 300 MOVIES

MAXIM GOES TO THE MOVIES

YOU MUST SEE BEFORE YOU DIE!

Frankly, we can't imagine a heaven without movies, but just in case God's tastes lean more toward extended lyre jams than Bond marathons, you'd better grab your remote. Given the endless availability of films via rentals, Netflix, on-demand, and downloads, there's no excuse for *not* watching movies 22 hours a day. But maybe you need a bit of guidance to the ones you can't miss, in the form of a fearless, definitive list that doesn't bother with musicals or *Gone With the Wind* but isn't afraid to mix critic-approved cool like *The Third Man* with cult trash like *The Warriors*—and 298 other classics. Read on, and, for God's sake, start watching.





They both violated the "no teeth" rule.

Monty Python and the Holy Grail 1975
Before saying, "I fart in your general direction," in a French accent became a cliché, the merry British anarchists' Arthurian satire was genuinely clever (debates over a swallow's air-speed velocity), subversive (an exasperated God), and silly (killer rabbits). After all, 100 million movie quoters can't be wrong. **Extra:** Investors included Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin.



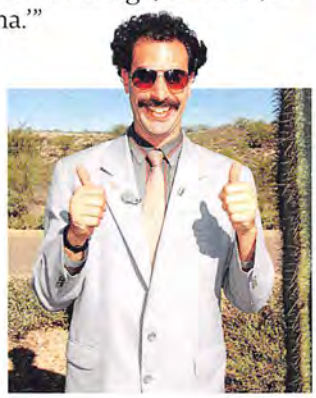
ANCHORMAN: THE LEGEND OF RON BURGUNDY 2004

Will Ferrell–philes can debate if it's the *SNL* alum's funniest—or simply weirdest—star vehicle, but this spoof of '70s newscasters founded the foolproof formula of throwaway lines ("Milk was a bad choice," "I'm in a glass case of emotion") and surreally silly situations (a Frat Pack cameo-studded news team gang fight!) that made him a modern comedy institution. **Line, please:** "San Diego, of course, in German means 'a whale's vagina.'"



The Big Lebowski 1998
Nihilists. Cowboy philosophers. Obsessive bowling. This box office gutterball turned dorm room essential (if you've spent a single day in college over the past decade, you know every word) is so stuffed with compulsively quotable dialogue that you almost forget it's also a virtuoso display of the Coen brothers' editing and cinematography. **Line, please:** "Hey, careful, there's a beverage here!"

Kingpin 1996
All respect to *Dumb & Dumber* and *There's Something About Mary* aficionados, but this gross-out opus about a one-handed bowler and his Amish apprentice is the Farrelly brothers' funniest. How can you top Bill Murray's gut-busting improv—or comb-over? **Line, please:** "What is it about good sex that makes me have to crap? You really jarred something loose, tiger."





Long ago, in a galaxy far, far away, Tara Reid was actually hot.



Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan 2006
You know a comedy scores when its absurdly popular character is retired rather than mess with perfection. This "doc" about an anti-Semitic, oddly lovable Kazakhstani journalist grossed $260 million, and twice as many gasps at its nude wrestling. **Line, please:** "I want to buy a car with a pussy magnet."

This Is Spinal Tap 1984
Before there was *Guffman* or *The Office*, *Spinal Tap* simultaneously ignited the mock-doc genre and set the bar unreachably high—to 11! **Extra:** Christopher Guest, Michael McKean, and Harry Shearer were so convincing as clueless metalheads, even-more-clueless fans believed they were the real thing.



MORE MUST-SEE COMEDIES

- ★ Airplane! 1980
- ★ Animal House 1978
- ★ American Pie 1999
- ★ Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery 1997
- ★ Bachelor Party 1984
- ★ Bananas 1971
- ★ Beverly Hills Cop 1984
- ★ Blazing Saddles 1974
- ★ Caddyshack 1980
- ★ The Cannonball Run 1981
- ★ Clerks 1994
- ★ Dazed and Confused 1993
- ★ Duck Soup 1933
- ★ Dumb & Dumber 1994
- ★ Election 1999
- ★ The 40-Year-Old Virgin 2005
- ★ Ghostbusters 1984
- ★ Groundhog Day 1993
- ★ Happy Gilmore 1996
- ★ Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle 2004
- ★ It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World 1963
- ★ The Jerk 1979
- ★ Modern Times 1936
- ★ The Nutty Professor 1963
- ★ Office Space 1999
- ★ Old School 2003
- ★ The Pink Panther Strikes Again 1976
- ★ The Princess Bride 1987
- ★ Raising Arizona 1987
- ★ Sixteen Candles 1984
- ★ Some Like It Hot 1959
- ★ Trading Places 1983
- ★ Vacation 1983
- ★ Wedding Crashers 2005
- ★ Wet Hot American Summer 2001
- ★ Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory 1971
- ★ Young Frankenstein 1974



THE MASTER CLASS: BREATHLESS (GODARD) CITIZEN KANE (WELLES) LA DOLCE VITA (FELLINI) SEVEN SAMURAI (KUROSAWA) THE 400 BLOWS (TRUFFAUT) THE SEVENTH SEAL (BERGMAN) UN CHIEN ANDALOU (BUÑUEL)

PHOTOGRAPH BY SATOSHI



"Hey, this *does* smell like victory. With a hint of jasmine."



The Bridge on the River Kwai 1957
Watch POW Alec Guinness, forced to build a bridge, descend from stoic to obsessed and you'll never look at Obi-Wan the same way again.

Dr. Strangelove 1964
The funniest movie ever about global thermonuclear war. Stanley Kubrick's coal-black comedy featured Peter Sellers at his best, playing a nebbishy British functionary, the narrow-minded U.S. president, and a twisted genius ex-Nazi.

MORE MUST-SEE WAR

★ Apocalypse Now 1979
★ Black Hawk Down 2001
★ The Dirty Dozen 1967
★ Gallipoli 1981
★ The Great Escape 1963
★ M*A*S*H 1970
★ Platoon 1986
★ Saving Private Ryan 1998





No workplace Armageddon for 127 days—and counting!



THE DEER HUNTER 1978

We weren't even in Nam, and we still have recurring night sweats about the POW Russian roulette scene—images so harrowing they almost overshadow the equally riveting rest of Michael Cimino's examination of war's impact on a group of steel-town buddies. The *Godfather* of Vietnam films. **Rewind:** Robert De Niro didn't know that Christopher Walken was going to spit in his face. Hence his look of barely contained fury.

Director's Choice

Four helmers pick the best parts of *their* fave flicks.



Quentin Tarantino
(*Pulp Fiction*)
Best ending:
"*The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*'s final showdown. I think it's the best piece of cinematic art ever accomplished. And maybe the best that ever will be accomplished."



Chris Carter
(*X Files 2*)
Best action:
"There are a couple of scenes, and they come from the original *Babe*. The pig movie. I think my favorite is the scene where Babe comes to the rescue late in the movie."



Adam McKay
(*Anchorman*)
Best bad guy:
"One of my favorites is still James Spader in *Pretty in Pink* and *Wall Street*. God, that guy was just a masterful prick. So smug. And he was one of the first to do that modern-day asshole."



Jason Reitman
(*Juno*)
Best quote:
"From the infinitely quotable *American Psycho*: 'Well, he was probably a closet homosexual who did a lot of cocaine. That whole Yale thing.' Or, 'Duct tape. I need it for...taping something.'"





Showgirls 1995
This retroactively rationalized "farce"—a triumph of Cinemaxian sexploitation—unintentionally surpasses any Judd Apatow movie's laugh-to-minute ratio.



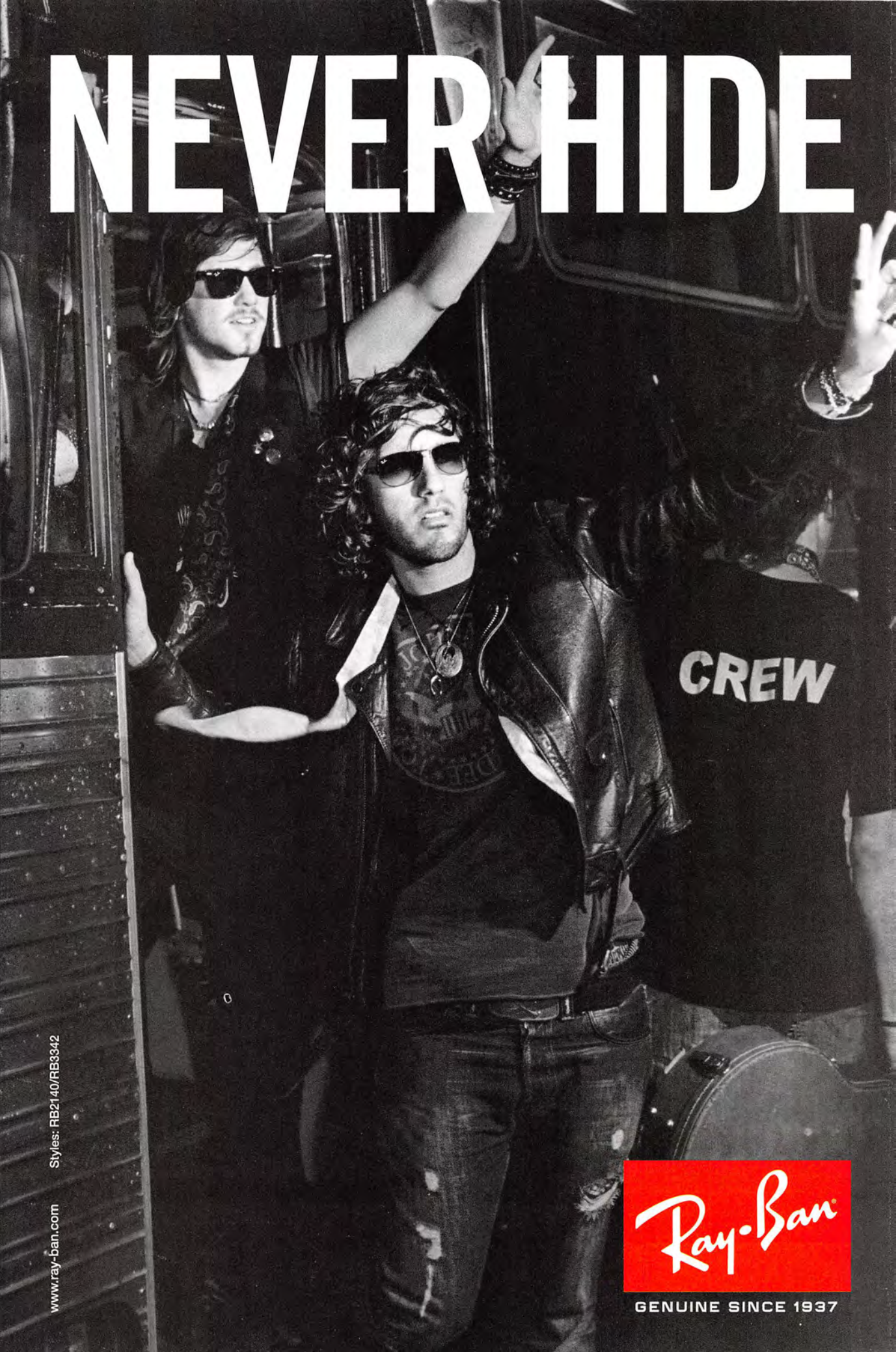
Glen or Glenda? 1953
Plan 9 From Outer Space is a cohesive masterpiece compared to Ed Wood's transvestite odyssey, a stock-footage patchwork book-ended by Bela Lugosi monologues.

MORE MUST-SEE TRAIN WRECKS

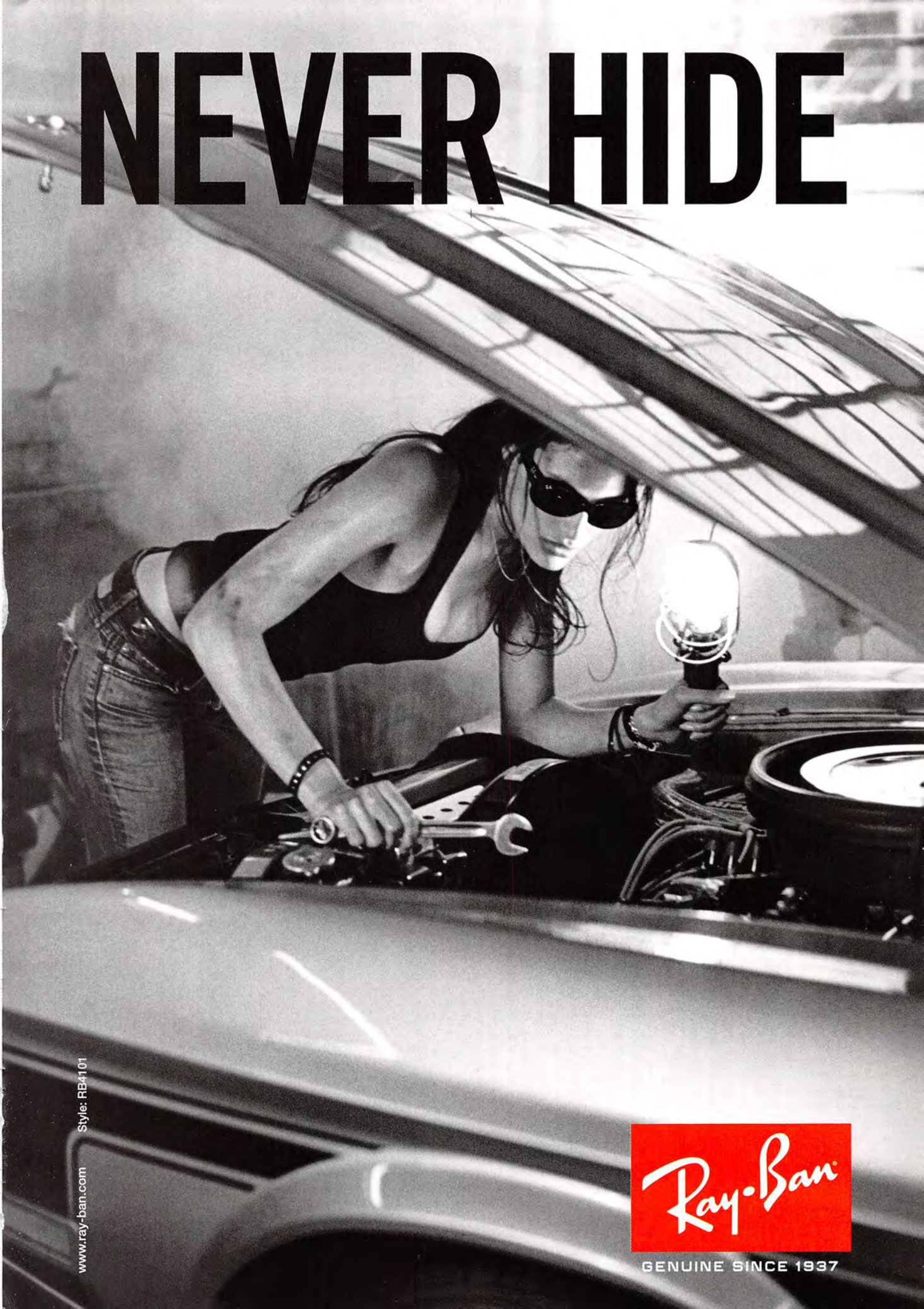
★ Airport 1975 1974
★ Barbarella 1968
★ Battlefield Earth 2000
★ Beyond the Valley of the Dolls 1970
★ Death Race 2000 1975
★ Phantom of the Paradise 1974
★ Reefer Madness 1936
★ Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band 1978
★ TheToxic Avenger 1985

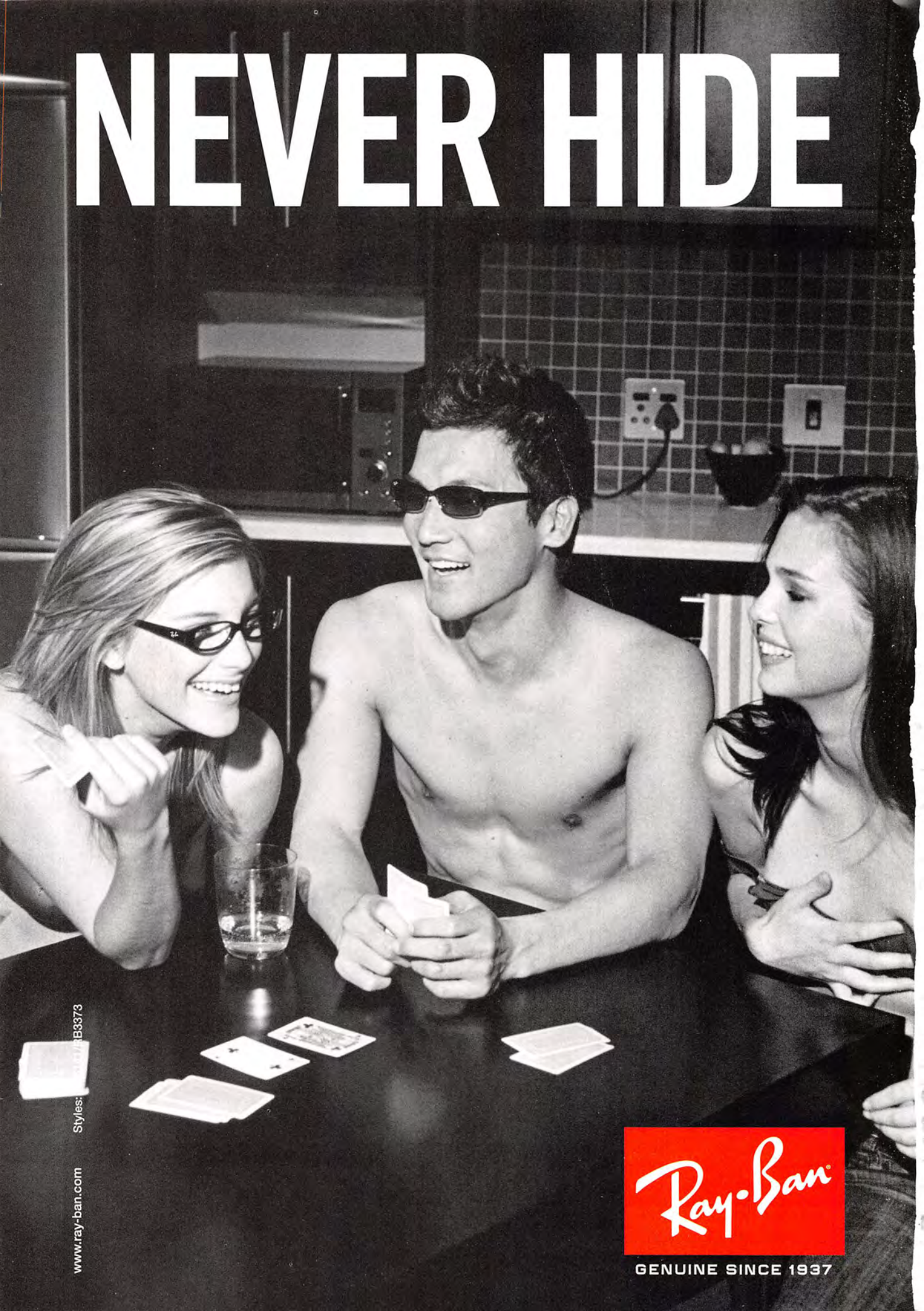


SEQUELS THAT ARE BETTER THAN THE ORIGINAL: BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN ★ EVIL DEAD II ★ STAR TREK 2: THE WRATH OF KHAN ★ SUPERMAN II ★ TERMINATOR 2 ★ THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK


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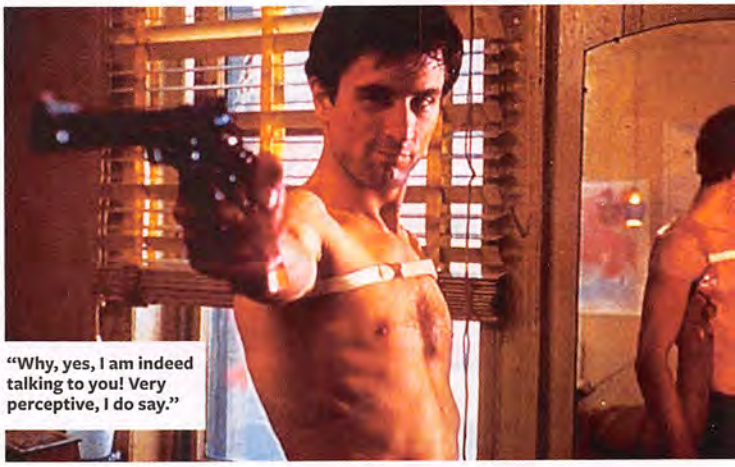

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Cool Hand Luke 1967
The coolest prison movie ever. Yes, Paul Newman's chain gang anti-hero can eat 50 eggs. More important, he can also make us feel every bead of sweat dripped onto the gritty Southern roadside, the adrenaline rush of bloodhounds hot on his trail, and the existential weight of being a reluctant Christ figure to a bunch of cons. **Line, please:** "What we've got here is a failure to communicate."


"Why, yes, I am indeed talking to you! Very perceptive, I do say."

MORE MUST-SEE REBELS

- ★ Billy Jack 1971
- ★ Dirty Harry 1971
- ★ Dirty Mary Crazy Larry 1974
- ★ Ferris Bueller's Day Off 1986
- ★ The Graduate 1967
- ★ A History of Violence 2005
- ★ The Hustler 1961
- ★ The King of Comedy 1983
- ★ Network 1976
- ★ One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest 1975
- ★ Raging Bull 1980
- ★ Risky Business 1983
- ★ Smokey and the Bandit 1977
- ★ Three Days of the Condor 1975
- ★ Trainspotting 1996





TAXI DRIVER 1976

Martin Scorsese's searing portrait of a Big Apple gone rotten, and Robert De Niro's portrayal of the unhinged cabby who feeds on it, makes for the quintessential '70s film. **Line, please:** We love when Albert Brooks tells Cybill Shepherd... Ha ha, just kidding. "You talkin' to me?" Line of the decade.



Sid & Nancy 1986
This biopic about Sex Pistol Sid Vicious (Gary Oldman) isn't totally accurate but does faithfully mirror the punk ethos of valuing pure 'tude over boring technical skill.



Easy Rider 1969
Two bikers roar off on a road trip to Mardi Gras and learn about bigotry, random violence, and the death of the American dream. Well, that and lots of drugs.


Not the manliest way to have a gunfight...



Lawrence of Arabia 1962
Thank heaven for 70-inch flat-screens. Now home-theater buffs can grasp at least *some* of the stunning grandeur of director David Lean's epic about a flamboyant British officer's exploits in the Middle East during WWI, from quicksand closeups to brutal desert battles. Sure, Peter O'Toole's legendary performance chews the scenery, but there's plenty to spare. **Line, please:** "Nothing is written."



Kind Hearts and Coronets 1949
Don't be thrown by the wussified title, this classic British comedy is as dark as they come. When an ambitious but poor social climber realizes that eight nobles (all played by Alec Guinness) stand in his way of gaining a cushy dukedom, he does the only sensible thing: murders them one by one. **Extra:** Originally offered only four parts, Guinness asked the producers, "Why not eight?"

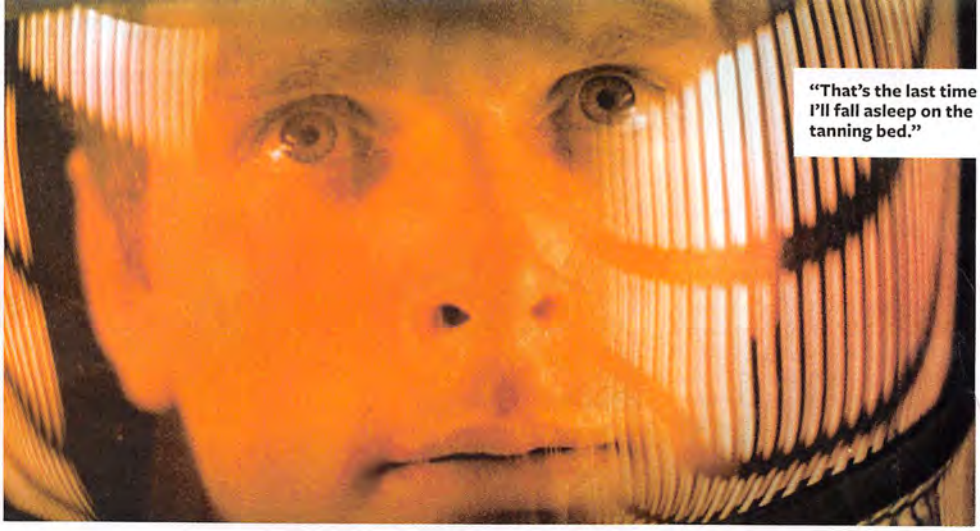
The Adventures of Robin Hood 1938
Few characters are as iconic as Sherwood Forest's noble outlaw, and few actors ever made a role his own like Errol Flynn. With swashbuckling, acrobatic escapes that still amaze today, it set the standard for action-adventure. Mr. Costner, why'd you even bother? **Extra:** James Cagney, best known for gangster films, was originally slated for the role.

MORE MUST-SEE CLASSICS

- ★ Ben-Hur 1959
- ★ Casablanca 1942
- ★ Double Indemnity 1944
- ★ Metropolis 1927
- ★ The Night of the Hunter 1955
- ★ On the Waterfront 1954
- ★ The Third Man 1949
- ★ Touch of Evil 1958
- ★ Vertigo 1958
- ★ White Heat 1949
- ★ The Wizard of Oz 1939



NON-BORING DOCUMENTARIES: BROTHER'S KEEPER ★ DON'T LOOK BACK ★ GIMME SHELTER ★ HOOP DREAMS ★ PUMPING IRON ★ RICHARD PRYOR: LIVE IN CONCERT ★ WHEN WE WERE KINGS



"That's the last time I'll fall asleep on the tanning bed."



The Empire Strikes Back 1980
It takes a lot to trump an immortal classic. But damn if this funnier, smarter, darker sequel, featuring an AT-AT battle, Han Solo in carbonite, and Yoda, doesn't pull it off.





Starship Troopers 1997
In the future, soldiers will look like models. They will wage war against alien bugs. And a current of fascism will turn a B-movie into a dissertation-worthy classic.

2001: A Space Odyssey 1968
Who needs drugs when you have the Blu-ray of this cosmic magnum opus? Stanley Kubrick combines a classical soundtrack with then-advanced FX to tackle no less a theme than the eons-spanning evolution of humankind.
Extra: To nail HAL 9000's creepily relaxed computer voice, actor Douglas Rain spoke his lines with his bare feet resting on a pillow.

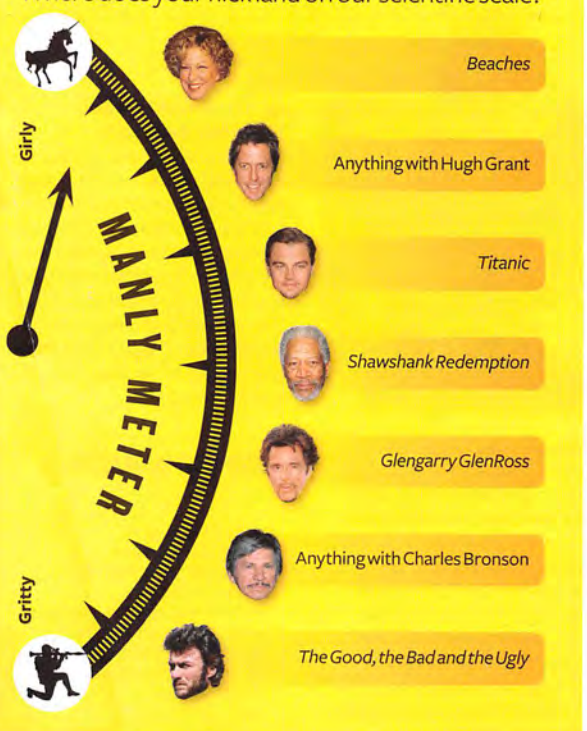
MORE MUST-SEE SCI-FI

- ★ Alien/Aliens 1979, 1986
- ★ Back to the Future 1985
- ★ Blade Runner 1982
- ★ Children of Men 2006
- ★ Close Encounters of the Third Kind 1977
- ★ E.T. 1982
- ★ King Kong 1933
- ★ Planet of the Apes 1968
- ★ Star Wars 1977
- ★ Terminator/T2 1984, 1991



Dude, Where's My Movie?

Where does your flick land on our scientific scale?





"This is my Sunday-go-to-church chain saw."

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1974
None of the countless teens-versus-cannibals ripoffs can match the indie audacity and nerve-jangling trauma of Tobe Hooper's original gorefest. It may be the only horror movie for which the audio alone would scare you stupid.
Rewind: The infamous "meat hook" scene is edited so well, viewers rarely notice that they never actually see hook pierce flesh.



MORE MUST-SEE HORROR

- ★ Carrie 1976
- ★ The Exorcist 1973
- ★ The Fly 1986
- ★ Halloween 1978
- ★ Jaws 1975
- ★ A Nightmare on Elm Street 1984
- ★ Psycho 1960
- ★ Rosemary's Baby 1968
- ★ The Shining 1980
- ★ 28 Days Later 2002





Night of the Living Dead 1968
Dawn of the Dead 1978
George A. Romero combined politics and apocalypse to invent the zombie genre as we know it in his still-terrifying no-budget B&W classic, *Night*—then topped it with the splatter-tastic *Dawn*.

CONSPICUOUSLY GAY STRAIGHT MOVIES (BEYOND *TOP GUN*): 300 ★ FIGHT CLUB ★ SPARTACUS ★ THE BEAR ★ THE LORD OF THE RINGS ★ THE WARRIORS ★ X-MEN





THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY 1966

In the third (and best) volume of Sergio Leone's majestic, witty, genre-flouting spaghetti Western trilogy, Clint Eastwood's cheroot-puffing Man With No Name elbowed aside all-American John Wayne as our classic Western archetype: wary, more than slightly cruel, and the last man you'd want to meet in gunfight. **Extra:** Ennio Morricone's soundtrack spent a full year on the *Billboard* charts.

The Searchers 1956
Director John Ford's Monument Valley scenery would make any young man go West, though we're not sure we'd ride along with John Wayne's "hero," a leather-tough cowboy who can't decide whether to rescue his kidnapped niece from the Comanches—or kill her. **Rewind:** The final view of Wayne framed by a doorway against the open desert is one of filmdom's most iconic shots.

Jeremiah Johnson 1972
Watch for the breathtaking Utah wilderness. Watch for the arc of a mountain man finding companionship through his quest for isolation. Or watch for the shock of über-liberal Robert Redford butchering half the Crow tribe in revenge. Actually, watch for all the above. **Extra:** When the historical trapper on whom *Johnson* is based was reburied in Wyoming, Redford attended the funeral.



MORE MUST-SEE WESTERNS

- ★ Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid 1969
- ★ High Noon 1952
- ★ High Plains Drifter 1973
- ★ Tombstone 1993
- ★ True Grit 1969
- ★ Unforgiven 1992
- ★ The Wild Bunch 1969









Deliverance 1972
Squeal, piggy! The backwoods love scene made this tale of yuppies on a very bad canoe trip infamous. Bow-wielding Burt Reynolds at his most macho makes it great.

The Last Detail 1973
The lucky alchemy of Robert Towne's profane script, Hal Ashby's art-house direction, and Jack Nicholson's wild-eyed rebelliousness forge an underappreciated counterculture classic about three Navy men behaving badly.



Top Gun 1986
Tom Cruise cemented his superstar status in this slick, fist-pumping blockbuster about fighter pilots named Maverick, Goose, and Iceman competing for air supremacy. Oh, and the greased-up volleyball montage scored by Kenny Loggins' "Playing With the Boys" just might be the most inadvertently gay scene in mainstream Hollywood history. **Line, please:** "I feel the need—the need for speed!"

Superbad 2007
Just when you thought there must be a law that high school comedies have to be about rich girl cliques comes a gut-busting, foul-mouthed teen bromance for the ages, in which Michael Cera, Jonah Hill, and third-nerd-wheel Christopher Mintz-Plasse spend a very long, very crazy night trying to buy booze and get laid. **Extra:** Seth Rogan and best bud Evan Goldberg began writing *Superbad* at age 13.

MORE MUST-SEE BUDDIES

- ★ American Graffiti 1973
- ★ The Blues Brothers 1980
- ★ Breaking Away 1979
- ★ Glengarry GlenRoss 1992
- ★ The Goonies 1984
- ★ Lethal Weapon 1987
- ★ The Right Stuff 1983
- ★ Saturday Night Fever 1977
- ★ The Shawshank Redemption 1994
- ★ Stand by Me 1986
- ★ Stripes 1981
- ★ Swingers 1996
- ★ The Warriors 1979

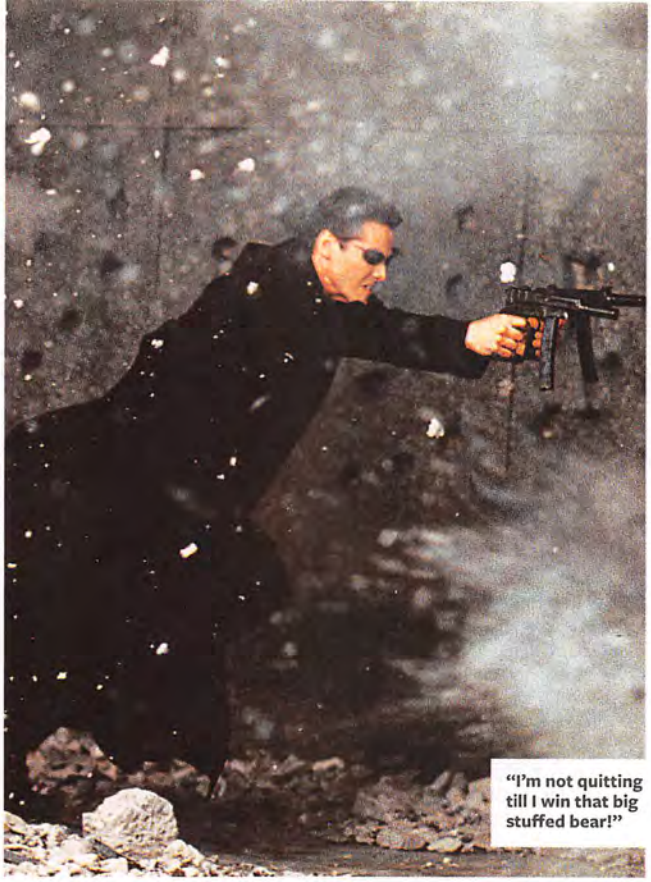


CONSPICUOUSLY GAY SWAYZE MOVIES: NEXT OF KIN ★ POINT BREAK ★ RED DAWN ★ ROAD HOUSE ★ THE OUTSIDERS ★ YOUNGBLOOD





Rocky I–IV 1976–85
Yo, *Rocky* won a Best Picture Oscar. But we also treasure the series for its jogs on the beach with Apollo, Mr. T's Mohawk, and for ultimate Cold War propaganda *Rocky IV.* **Line, please:** "No, I don't hate Balboa. I pity the fool."


"I'm not quitting till I win that big stuffed bear!"

THE MATRIX 1999

Keanu Reeves' movies about machine-manipulated reality aren't supposed to be this good, but the groundbreaking FX (see: "bullet time") were a revelation. Those sequels? Never happened. **Rewind:** The lobby shootout is possibly the three most action-packed minutes in film history.



The Road Warrior 1981
The action-overdrive sequel to cult hit *Mad Max* launched Mel Gibson's career, made assless chaps a fashion must for postapocalyptic barbarians, and coined the phrase "the Ayatollah of Rock'n'Rollah." Now that's a movie, dammit!

MORE MUST-SEE ACTION

- ★ Batman 1989
- ★ Batman Begins 2005
- ★ Battle Royale 2000
- ★ Bourne trilogy 2002, '04, '07
- ★ Braveheart 1995
- ★ Clash of the Titans 1981
- ★ Die Hard 1988
- ★ Enter the Dragon 1973
- ★ Face/Off 1997
- ★ First Blood 1982
- ★ 48 Hrs. 1982
- ★ Gladiator 2000
- ★ The Incredibles 2004
- ★ Kill Bill: Vol.1 & 2 2003, '04
- ★ The Lord of the Rings trilogy 2001, '02, '03
- ★ Predator 1987
- ★ Raiders of the Lost Ark 1981
- ★ Speed 1994
- ★ Spider-Man 2002




"That sleazeball Charlie Sheen? No. Never."



Wild Things 1998
This glorious sleazefest's signature threesome is like the last Super Bowl—one side is in to win, the other side content to coast. Denise Richards bares all of her champagne-glistened body while Neve Campbell wears...a tank top. Even her inexplicable modesty can't derail the high jinks. **Extra:** Campbell later shed the tank top for non-threesome sex scenes. Thanks for nothing, Neve.

Fast Times at Ridgemont High 1982
If ever a movie were a time capsule *and* an ageless classic, this almost anthropological comedy about Cali high schoolers is it. The soundtrack alone is a wonder, and really, Sean Penn deserved an Oscar for disappearing inside über-stoner Jeff Spicoli. **Rewind:** C'mon, you already know—Phoebe Cate's immortal poolside topless scene is the reason frame-by-frame was invented.

Carnal Knowledge 1971
Whether you identify with Jack Nicholson's unrepentant cocksman or buddy Art Garfunkel's befuddled romantic, this unsparing look at the sexual revolution will make any man squirm. Luckily, Ann-Margret and Candice Bergen at their peak help the medicine go down. **Extra:** The U.S. Supreme Court had to overturn the obscenity conviction of a Georgia theater owner who dared show the movie.



MORE MUST-SEE NUDITY

- ★ Angel Heart 1987
- ★ Body Heat 1981
- ★ Boogie Nights 1997
- ★ Coffy 1973
- ★ Jackass: The Movie 2002
- ★ McCabe & Mrs. Miller 1971
- ★ Mulholland Drive 2001
- ★ Poison Ivy: The New Seduction 1997
- ★ Revenge of the Nerds 1984
- ★ 10 1979



ESSENTIAL JAMES BOND MOVIES: CASINO ROYALE ★ GOLDFINGER ★ THE SPY WHO LOVED ME ★ LIVE AND LET DIE ★ YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE



"If I'm weirding you out in any way, I apologize."

ART HOUSE



A CLOCKWORK ORANGE 1971

The swinging '60s meet dystopian future in Stanley Kubrick's daring provocation, in which proto-punk Malcolm McDowell somehow gets our sympathy when brainwashed by the big, bad government. **Rewind:** McDowell mimics *Singin' in the Rain* while engaging in a bit of ultraviolence.

City of God 2002
Imagine the best gangster bits from *The Wire*, mix in doc-style cinematography, then set the whole thing in the slums of Rio, and you might have something approaching Fernando Meirelles gritty, intoxicating epic.





Annie Hall 1977
Relationships suck—and yet everybody wants one. No film better explains that paradox than Woody Allen's lone Best Director winner, whose title character (Diane Keaton) makes Allen equal parts miserable and happy(ish).

Withnail and I 1987
Take two drug-addled on-the-dole actors from 1969 London, throw them into a dilapidated country house, take away any modern conveniences, add a touchy-feely gay uncle and—voilà!—you have a sardonic cult classic. Cheers!





Midnight Cowboy 1969
Never has a fish-out-of-water tale been so subversive as when Texas cowboy poser Jon Voight steps off the bus in Manhattan naively looking to become a gigolo and makes unlikely friends with scuzzy swindler Dustin Hoffman.

MORE MUST-SEE ART HOUSE



- ★ Badlands 1973
- ★ The Bicycle Thief 1948
- ★ The Conversation 1974
- ★ Do the Right Thing 1989
- ★ Elephant Man 1980
- ★ The Last Picture Show 1971
- ★ Repo Man 1984
- ★ Rushmore 1998
- ★ Short Cuts 1993
- ★ There Will Be Blood 2007

The 300: By the Numbers

We deconstructed the list so you don't have to!

12 De Niro movies

7 Scorsese movies

6 Collaborations between the two

30 Movies with numerals in the title

7 Carl Weathers movies

0 Will Smith movies

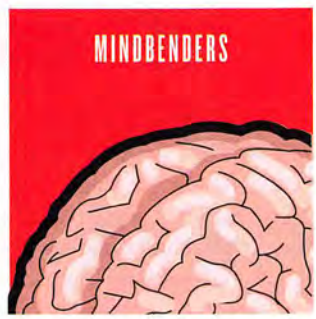
TOM SIZEMORE MOVIES: 6
GEORGE CLOONEY MOVIES: 0

FRANCISES: 55

John Cazale movies

John Cazale movies, period

MINDBENDERS





Akira 1988
This anime tour de force makes no sense unless viewed under heavy sedation, but the postapocalyptic Tokyo overrun with biker gangs and fascist police is gorgeous.



The Rocky Horror Picture Show 1975
Obscene chants, trashy lingerie, perversion—and that's just the audience! No wonder it's been a midnight staple for decades.

MORE MUST-SEE MINDBENDERS



- ★ Beetlejuice 1988
- ★ Blue Velvet 1986
- ★ Brazil 1985
- ★ Donnie Darko 2001
- ★ Edward Scissorhands 1990
- ★ Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind 2004
- ★ Fight Club 1999
- ★ Memento 2000
- ★ Pink Floyd: The Wall 1982
- ★ The Manchurian Candidate 1962

BEST MOVIES WITH PUPPETS: BEING JOHN MALKOVICH ★ SUPERSTAR: THE KAREN CARPENTER STORY ★ TEAM AMERICA ★ THE DARK CRYSTAL ★ THE MUPPET MOVIE ★ WEEKEND AT BERNIE'S





To Live and Die in L.A. 1985
The Secret Service agents of this very '80s crime flick (Wang Chung's synthy score just might re-perm your hair) break every rule of law enforcement to bust a sadistic counterfeiter, and the shocking fate of hero William Petersen breaks every rule of mainstream moviemaking. In a good way. **Extra:** Director William Friedkin reportedly filmed the insane car chase last—in case any actors got killed.

MORE MUST-SEE COPS

★ Bad Lieutenant 1992
★ Chinatown 1974
★ The Departed 2006
★ Donnie Brasco 1997
★ Fargo 1996
★ The French Connection 1971
★ RoboCop 1987
★ Se7en 1995
★ Shaft 1971
★ The Silence of the Lambs 1991
★ The Untouchables 1987

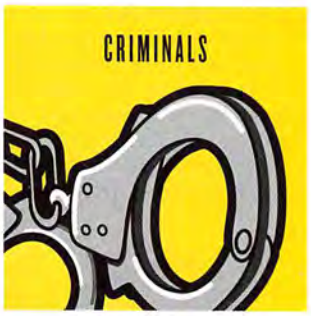


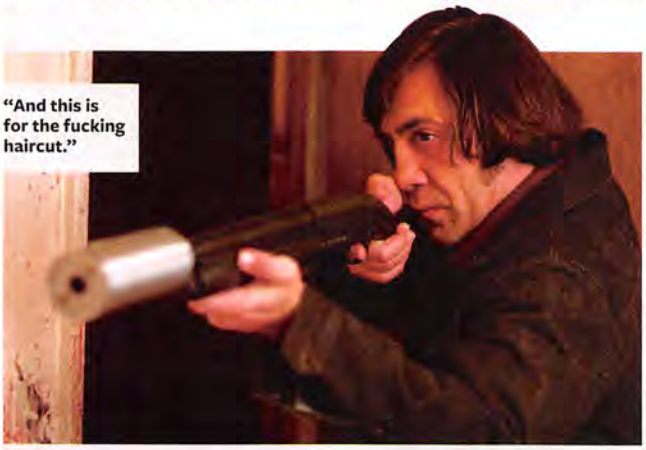
BULLITT 1968

From Dirty Harry Callahan to *Lethal Weapon*'s Martin Riggs, Steve McQueen's badass Lt. Frank Bullitt paved the way for every maverick cop who refused to play by the rules. **Extra:** McQueen's stunt driver for *Bullitt*'s legendary car chase also performed his motorcycle jump in *The Great Escape*.



Hard Boiled 1992
The term "bullet ballet" was coined for John Woo's kung fu masterpiece that sets up Hong Kong cop Chow Yun Fat versus mobsters, then turns machine guns, shotguns, explosions, and blood spurts into objects of fetishized beauty.







Reservoir Dogs 1992
Because the bad guys were named Mr. White, Mr. Pink, and Mr. Blonde. And because every time we hear "Stuck in the Middle With You," we fear for our ear.



NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN 2007

In adapting Cormac McCarthy's bleak novel, did the Coen brothers create a violent nouveau Western that uses the chase between Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, and Tommy Lee Jones to ratchet up unbearable tension? Yes! Brilliant? You bet, friend-o. **Extra:** Josh Brolin's audition tape was directed by Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez.

MORE MUST-SEE CRIMINALS

★ Atlantic City 1980
★ Bad Boys 1983
★ Bloody Mama 1970
★ The Boys From Brazil 1978
★ Boyz N the Hood 1991
★ Carlito's Way 1993
★ Casino 1995
★ Crimes and Misdemeanors 1989
★ Dog Day Afternoon 1975
★ The Getaway 1972
★ Get Carter 1971
★ GoodFellas 1990
★ Heat 1995
★ A History of Violence 2005
★ In Cold Blood 1967
★ The Long Good Friday 1980
★ Mean Streets 1973
★ Midnight Express 1978
★ Natural Born Killers 1994
★ Pulp Fiction 1994
★ River's Edge 1986
★ Scarface 1983
★ Sexy Beast 2000
★ Sin City 2005
★ Super Fly 1972
★ True Romance 1993



The Godfather I & II 1972, 1974
You've watched them a dozen times. You know every line and have adopted some ("Keep your friends close and your enemies closer") as motivational tools. They are, simply, the apex of all Mob movies. That's why you'll watch them a dozen times more. **Extra:** Al Pacino and Robert De Niro, both nominated for *The Godfather: Part II*, never appeared together on-screen until 1995's *Heat*.



Bonnie and Clyde 1967
Graphic violence in the name of art wasn't always as accepted as it is today. *B&C*'s unapologetic gore showed moviegoers just how cool a bloody movie can be, and paved the way for the antiestablishment flicks that soon dominated American cinema. **Extra:** Convinced the movie would tank, Warner Bros. gave producer/star Warren Beatty 40 percent of the gross instead of a small fee.

MOVIES YOU NEED TO SEE ONCE, BUT ARE SO TRAUMATIC YOU NEVER NEED TO SEE AGAIN: LEAVING LAS VEGAS ★ MILLION DOLLAR BABY ★ REQUIEM FOR A DREAM ★ SCHINDLER'S LIST ★ UNITED 93

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Fifteen years after it tanked at the box office, Tarantino, Gandolfini, and others dish the behind-the-scenes dirt on the making of a true cult classic.



MAXIM GOES TO THE MOVIES

QUENTIN TARANTINO | GARY OLDMAN | TONY SCOTT | CHRISTIAN SLATER | PATRICIA ARQUETTE | DENNIS HOPPER | JAMES GANDOLFINI

TRUE ROMANCE

AN ORAL HISTORY

BY MARC SPITZ

ON SEPTEMBER 10, 1993, A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE—PENNED BY future hotshot Quentin Tarantino, directed by action pro Tony Scott, and starring Christian Slater and Patricia Arquette—hit theaters with a brash fusion of stylized violence and whip-smart dialogue. It bombed. But *True Romance* was born again when it was released on video, achieving cult status among film geeks, rock stars, and regular Joes who got hip to Tarantino after 1994's *Pulp Fiction*. Now, on the iconic flick's 15th anniversary, you'd never guess the saga of an Elvis-obsessed loner who marries a hooker and flees to California with her pimp's cocaine, was anything *but* a Hollywood hit. A few of its scenes—cue the Christopher Walken, Dennis Hopper face-off—are held in mythic esteem. We corralled the stars and creators to reconstruct the secret history of *True Romance*—the production screwups, the on-set madness, and the sex and violence that reverberate so strongly to this day.

ACT I: BOY SCREENWRITER MEETS HOLLYWOOD

Tony Scott (director): When I was directing *The Last Boy Scout*, my assistant was hanging out with this quirky guy named Quentin Tarantino, and he'd be around the set. She said, "You gotta read his script." I said, "Yeah, right."

Quentin Tarantino (screenwriter): When you're a nobody, it's murder to get anyone to read your scripts. So my thing was making the first page fantastic, with dialogue that grabbed you right away. The original *True Romance* script started with a long discussion about cunnilingus. Most people said the script was racist and that the grotesque violence would make people sick. I told Tony, "Read the first three pages. If you don't like it, throw it away."

Scott: He gave me two scripts: *True Romance*, which was his first script, and *Reservoir Dogs*. I'm a terrible reader, but I read them both on a flight to Europe. By the time I landed, I wanted to make both of them into movies. When I told Quentin, he said, "You can only do one."

Scott got True Romance. *Given his blockbuster track record* (Top Gun, Days of Thunder) *Harvey and Bob Weinstein, whose Miramax Films would also distribute* Reservoir Dogs, *came aboard as executive producers. Now Scott needed to find the right cast.*

Christian Slater (Clarence Worley): I was making *Unchained Heart* in Minnesota when I got the script. Clarence, the lead character, was an oddball. Not your typical film hero. He obviously spent a lot of time alone, talking to his imaginary Elvis. His brain wasn't all there.

Tarantino: For most first-time writers, the lead character is your stand-in. Clarence was me. If you'd asked me then if Christian Slater was right for the part, I'd have said no—he was too handsome. I was thinking of Robert Carradine.

Slater: I met Quentin during rehearsal and remember thinking that Clarence was a version of who he wanted to be. I had visions of guys like Quentin who worked in video stores and are energetic about movies, but could never really be Charles Bronson. Tony had a different take. He thought of Clarence as much cooler.

Scott: Christian and I watched *Taxi Driver*. Before that I think he saw Clarence as softer. I was chasing black fucking comedy, and Christian was looking at it as more of a comedy.

`Int. Rae's Restaurant--night`
CLARENCE: Turnoffs?
ALABAMA: Persians.

Patricia Arquette (Alabama Whitman): My agent told me about this script for a Tony Scott movie. There was a lot I liked about it, but I didn't like when Alabama was sort of racist. By now we've all gotten used to Quentin's tone, but at the time I was somewhat shocked by it. I was asking myself, "What is this? Whoa!" I don't know if the line about being turned off by Persians was in the script. Actually, every time we shot that scene, I would say a different ethnic group—I wanted to be equally offensive to all people.

Tarantino: When I wrote it, my ideal Alabama was Joan Cusack.

Arquette: Tony really wanted Drew Barrymore as Alabama. He was obsessed with her. He had pictures of her wearing little outfits. But I think she was unavailable.

Scott: We met with Patricia, and Christian had a woody from the first time he saw her. That made my life a lot easier. The viewer believing they're in love comes from their chemistry. Patricia fell in love with Christian, and he with her. They had a true romance.

Arquette: The material led to this incredibly romantic, magnetized relationship. Christian is charming and funny, and there was a sexual attraction between us.

Slater: It was love at first sight. But working with Patricia was tricky, because I was in a relationship. We both made attempts to be professional, but at that age it was difficult.

Gary Oldman (Drexl Spivey, pimp): I hadn't read the script, and knew nothing about it. Tony and I had tea at the Four Seasons and he said, "Look, I can't really explain the plot. But Drexl's a pimp who's white but thinks he's black." That was all I needed to hear. I said, "I'll do it."

Scott: Gary called me out of the blue and said, "I've got it. I know exactly who this guy is: He's my drug dealer."

Oldman: My drug dealer? Tony would fucking get me arrested, wouldn't he? I've never had a drug dealer! I organized Drexl's dreadlocks under my own steam. Then I went to a dentist who made the teeth. Then I thought about giving him a weird eye. I'm only in the film for about 10 minutes—I wanted to make my



mark. I heard this gang of black kids outside my trailer and thought, *That's Drexl.* I showed this kid my lines and said, "Does this seem authentic?" He changed some words. He said, "That don't fly. Drexl wouldn't say 'titties'; he'd say 'breasteses.'"

Tarantino: Those kids were clowning him, and he believed them because he didn't know any better. Because he's British.

Int. Dingy Hotel Room--night

BIG DON: I eat the pussy. I eat the butt. I eat every motherfuckin' thang.

Bronson Pinchot (Elliot Blitzer, drug connection): I got the script during the last days of *Perfect Strangers.* I read the entire pussy-eating monologue in my character Balki's accent. People on set were scandalized.

Scott: Meanwhile, Quentin became a sensation around Hollywood. He was making his indie movie with *Reservoir Dogs,* and I was doing the big movie. Everybody wanted to be a part of it. Brad Pitt, who had recently done *Thelma & Louise,* called and said, "Why don't you let me play the roommate?" I said, "Are you serious? Fucking yes!" because he was on the bloom of stardom. Val Kilmer wanted to play Clarence. I had a different vision, so Val said, "Then let me play Elvis." For six months before we started shooting, he would sing Elvis songs on my answering machine.

Slater: I watched as many Elvis movies as I could, doing my best to fall in love with him like Clarence does. Elvis the imaginary friend was real to Clarence.

Tarantino: Is Elvis really visiting Clarence, or is it his imagination? I can give you the answer, but I'm not going to. It's for you to decide.

ACT II: HOLLYWOOD ACTORS MEET, LOSE EGOS

When filming began, the combination of veteran actors and breakout talent fostered a spirit of collaboration. Together they'd tackle racially sensitive monologues, a vicious fight between a hulking mobster and a petite hooker, and a bullet-riddled climax. Improvisation would be embraced. Tears would be shed. And if the director had to slap someone around, so be it.

Tom Sizemore (Cody Nicholson, LAPD detective): Tony started every take like this: "Rock'n'roll, motherfuckers! Action!"

Scott: Gary would bring his 70-year-old mum to the set. After a take he'd go, "Mum, what do you think?" She'd say, "It's good," and he'd go, "What the fuck do you know? It's terrible."

Oldman: Yeah, my mother was on the set. She's seen it all. God bless her, she's still running around at 88 years old.







(clockwise from right) Oldman as Drexl, "who's white but thinks he's black"; Gandolfini, pre–Tony Soprano but five times as ferocious; Pitt in Stonerville (honey bear pipe not pictured); Walken and Hopper in the notorious trailer showdown.

Scott: His mum was also there for the scene where Drexl's dick gets blown off. She said, "Yeah, I thought that was really good."

Oldman: The gun fired blanks, but there was still a flare and powder coming out of the barrel. I wore a metal cup. I've died in a lot of movies, but to have my dick blown off and then get shot in the face with my eyes open, that's up there. That beats a stake through the heart.

Arquette: I had a hard time with the scene where Clarence tells me he's killed Drexl and I say, "What you did was so romantic." I couldn't jump to that reaction. My acting coach and I came up with the idea that here's a man I barely know, who killed someone and is eating a burger. He could kill me next. As a female, the way to stay safe is to be in a love bubble. Part of her does think it's romantic, like, kill all the mistakes I ever made.

The classic standoff between a Mob boss (Walken) and Clarence's protective father (Hopper) is among the movie's most memorable scenes. Due to its racially charged language, it's also the most controversial.

Arquette: I'd worked with Dennis on *The Indian Runner* and had a little crush on him, but never expressed it. We had this scene where I kiss him, and he goes, "She does taste like a peach." I had someone go buy this lip gloss from when I was a kid. I wanted him to lick his lips and go, "Wow, she actually does taste like peach."

Int. Trailer Home--day

CLIFF: Way back then, Sicilians were like wops in Northern Italy. They all had blond hair and blue eyes. But then the Moors moved in there, and they changed the whole country.

Dennis Hopper (Clifford Worley, Clarence's father): The only lines Christopher Walken and I improvised in our big scene were my line "You're part eggplant," and his line "You're a cantaloupe." The rest was written by Quentin. Was I worried about the racial overtones? Not really. Because it's factual. The Moors did invade Sicily, and they did breed. Quentin writes like people speak. He doesn't have to be PC.

James Gandolfini (Virgil, Mob henchman): I was glad to just be observing Hopper and Walken. We were crowded into this little trailer when Hopper gets shot, so everyone was offered earplugs. I remember Walken didn't ask for any, so, being very cool, I didn't ask for any either. I couldn't hear for three goddamn days.

Hopper: Tony has this special gun that you fire and flames come out the side. I said, "Tony, you're not putting that gun right to my head." He said, "It's fine, do it to me." So a crew guy shot him, and he started bleeding. He said, "OK, that won't work."

Clarence and Alabama's plan to sell the stolen cocaine in L.A. allowed Tarantino to add a layer of Hollywood satire to the story. And Scott, whose Last Boy Scout *was coproduced by fast-talking über-producer Joel Silver, was ready to inject his own observations.*

Slater: I think the movie captured what L.A. is pretty much about. There are lots of shady characters and wacky producers.

Tarantino: I didn't write the part of the producer who buys the coke to be Joel Silver. Tony *turned* him into Joel Silver.

Saul Rubinek (Lee Donowitz, Hollywood producer): I was auditioning and Tony said, "You got him exactly right. That's Joel. You nailed him."





And I said, "Sorry, I'm confused—Joel?" "Joel Silver," he said. I had no idea who that was.
Scott: The Hollywood satire is affectionate. But Joel didn't talk to me for a while after that.

The original script set a preliminary drug deal involving Clarence and two wannabe actors at a zoo. But Scott, wanting more action, switched the locale to an amusement park.

Scott: The roller-coaster scene was difficult. Pinchot was shitting himself, and Rapaport was so scared that he dropped a bunch of Quaaludes and couldn't say his lines.
Michael Rapaport (Dick Ritchie, wannabe actor): I don't like roller coasters. They had to convince me to ride it, and I threw up, so we had to reshoot it a week later. The second time, they sedated me. Some shots show me smiling because I'm drugged out of my mind, and some show me crying because I honestly thought I was going to crap.
Gandolfini: Everybody was young and nuts. Brad Pitt was around, too. I don't think he was "Brad Pitt" then, but he was great. I just had to watch him and say, "What a fuckin' flake." He improvised a lot.

`Int. Dick's Apartment--day`
FLOYD (Dick's stoner roommate): Don't condescend me, man. I'll fucking kill you.

Scott: "Don't condescend me." That's not in the script. That was Pitt.
Tarantino: Not only is Brad good, but his scene with the gangsters got the audience laughing so hard. It was one of the best reactions I've ever seen in a piece of my work.

Romance's most shocking scene may be Gandolfini's brutal interrogation and beating of Arquette, in which both actors bravely push the movie's trademark blend of eloquence and violence to the limit—and wind up with the bruises to show for it.

Tarantino: At that point in the movie, if Clarence is getting the shit kicked out of him, you know he isn't going to die because he's the star and there are 20 minutes to go. But dramatically speaking, Alabama could have died. She was expendable.
Scott: Gandolfini exudes both childlike innocence and enormous fucking danger. The fight scene between him and Patricia builds slowly, like a volcano. There's small talk at the beginning: "You're so cute—spin around for me." Then he pops her.
Arquette: First it's about a girl waiting for her boyfriend to rescue her, and she's working through her natural bag of tricks: flirting, being dumb. Then Virgil tells her about the transition he made to being a killer. And really, he's telling her what's going to happen to her in a moment. She's going to make this transition, and she's never going to be the same person.
Gandolfini: Patricia was totally down with it—she was very strong and tough. I'd do something to her character, and her stunt woman would call me a pussy.
Arquette: My mind wasn't where I wanted to be, so Tony said, "Do you want me to help you?" I said yes, and he smacked me in the face. I was shocked. I started crying.
Scott: When she couldn't get herself there emotionally, Patricia used to call my right hand "the Persuader." She'd say, "Bring on the Persuader," and I'd have to slap her. She'd say, "Hit me harder!" I'd stand there on the set giving Patricia right-handers. That does not happen a lot with me and actors.
Gandolfini: It was a little rough. There was a lot of throwing. You didn't see that often with a man and woman. I ended up doing it a lot on *The Sopranos* for some reason.
Pinchot: I can't watch the scene where Patricia's being beat up. It's so good it makes me sick. Chris Penn and Tom Sizemore were also amazing as the cops who make me wear a wire to the drug deal. We did takes where Chris slapped me across the face with the bag of coke, then grabbed me in a stranglehold and smashed my head on the table. There's some woman talking about her boobs, and all of a sudden Chris Penn is strangling me.
Sizemore: It was tough keeping a straight face during the scenes with Bronson. It was very funny when he had the listening device in his crotch. My laughs in that scene are authentic.

`Back to: Elevator`
With the .38 up against Elliot's head, Clarence puts his palm over the top of the gun to shield himself from the splatter. Alabama and Dick can't believe what he's gonna do.

Pinchot: When Clarence pulls the gun in the elevator, my character fucking loses it. If you're going to do a scene like that, you have to stay up all night. I said to myself, there's nothing else in my head but reality. Nobody on set is eating a Snickers bar right now. There is only me, and I'm gonna die.
Sizemore: The scene where we're listening to what's going on in the elevator was all improvised. We didn't work on anything. God rest his soul, Chris Penn was a wonderful, underrated actor—a real pro. He also was the brother of Sean Penn, one of the greater actors of all time. So he had a tough road.

`Int. Lee's Suite, the Beverly Ambassador Hotel`
This is a Mexican standoff if there ever was one. Gangsters on one end with shotguns. Bodyguards with machine guns on the other. And cops with handguns in the middle. Alabama's so scared she pees on herself.

Arquette: We filmed the hotel drug deal at the abandoned Ambassador Hotel, where Robert Kennedy was shot. We just called that scene the clusterfuck.
Sizemore: It *was* a clusterfuck. And the fucking feathers from the exploding pillows were there for four days, man. I got killed in take one, and I had to lay there the whole time with feathers in my mouth.
Scott: In Quentin's original script, Christian dies and Patricia takes off with the money. All the cynical people die. Rapaport is spared because he's innocent, and everybody else gets their comeuppance.
Tarantino: I tried like hell to convince Tony to ▸▸

"THE ONLY LINES CHRISTOPHER WALKEN AND I IMPROVISED IN OUR BIG SCENE WERE MY 'YOU'RE PART EGGPLANT' AND HIS 'YOU'RE A CANTALOUPE.' THE REST WAS WRITTEN BY QUENTIN."

let Clarence die, because that's what I wrote and it wasn't open for conjecture. I made this big dramatic plea: "You're losing your balls. You're trying to make it Hollywood shit. Why are you doing this?" He listened to the whole thing and then convinced me 100 percent that he wasn't doing it for commercial reasons.

Scott: I just fell in love with these two characters and didn't want to see them die. I wanted them together.

Tarantino: When I watched the movie, I realized that Tony was right. He always saw it as a fairy tale love story, and in that capacity it works magnificently. But in my world Clarence is dead and Alabama is on her own. If she ever shows up in another one of my scripts, Clarence will still be dead.



"Housekeeping? Can we get two new pillows and a body bag?"

ACT III: MOVIE MEETS MULTIPLEX, LOSES MONEY, EARNS FANS

When the movie wrapped, the actors wiped off the fake blood and went their separate ways, while Scott dived into editing and working with Warner Bros. to market his movie. All concerned had high hopes.

Scott: We had test screenings in Orange County. Christian was a date-movie star at the time, so our focus group was a little miscast. Two thirds of the theater emptied when Gary blew away Sam Jackson, and the rest left when Christian blew away Gary.

Hopper: Every time they showed it to an audience, they'd get standing ovations.

Tarantino: Warner Bros. was going to change the title to *Reckless Hearts*. I called Patricia, Christian, and Tony and said, "Let's go to the press junket and talk about how bad that title is and how good the real title is. We'll name the head of the marketing department in every interview so he's on the fucking hook."

Rubinek: The movie bombed. I don't think the studio knew how to market this kind of movie. If they released it today, it would be a hit.

`Int. Lee's Suite, the Beverly Ambassador Hotel`

LEE: You know what I'd like to do right now? I'd like to see Dr. Zhivago.

Hopper: I was surprised. The movie had no theatrical life—it came and went in a week. Were people expecting a traditional love story?

Indeed, True Romance *brought in a miserable $11.5 million at the box office. It did receive a handful of good reviews, though not from Senator Bob Dole, who, as a presidential candidate in 1995, lambasted it as an example of movies that "revel in mindless violence and loveless sex."*

Arquette: Senators talked about *True Romance* because they were advocating more censorship. Bob Dole said our movie was "disgusting"—or maybe that I was disgusting.

Tarantino: I knew Dole hadn't seen *True Romance* or *Natural Born Killers*. I couldn't believe that a guy running for president of the United States, the land of the free and the home of the brave, was condemning art he hadn't even seen. You fucking asshole, you'd say anything to get elected.

Sizemore: I was in *True Romance* and *Natural Born Killers*. That's why I went to prison. [Editors' note: Using a prosthetic penis to fake a court-ordered drug test didn't help.]

Hopper: I don't know anyone in the industry who hasn't seen it now. It's a wonderful movie, and not just because I have a great scene.

Rapaport: People still call me Dick Ritchie. I've had people come up and start quoting Christopher Walken, and it scares the shit out of me, because I don't realize they're movie lines.

Oldman: My most quoted line is, "I know I'm pretty, but I ain't as pretty as a pair of titties."

Tarantino: People have told me that they put the "You're so cool" line in their wedding vows. I even met a couple with matching YOUR SO COOL tattoos. *True Romance* and *Reservoir Dogs* were the growing pains for *Pulp Fiction*'s success. Audiences were seeing something they hadn't seen before—comedy and violence switching on a dime. They'd be horrified one second and laughing the next.

`Int. The Beverly Ambassador--day`

ELVIS: I gotta hand it to ya, Clarence. That was cool. Man, you were cooler than cool. ●

Life Beyond *Romance*

We all know about Gandolfini and Pitt, but where's everyone else? A lot can happen in 15 years—just ask Tom Sizemore.

★ **Quentin Tarantino** Directorial efforts include *Pulp Fiction* (1994) *Jackie Brown* (1997), *Kill Bill Vol. 1* and 2 (2003, 2004), and the "Death Proof" part of *Grindhouse* (2007). Remains an indie icon despite that last credit.

★ **Tony Scott** Filming a remake of *The Taking of Pelham One Two Three*, which, like *Reservoir Dogs*, features crooks named Mr. Blue and Mr. Brown.

★ **Christian Slater** Legal trouble stalled his momentum in the '90s. Was reportedly Tasered off Paris Hilton's roof by the LAPD during a 2005 party. Memo to Hollywood: Rewatch *Heathers* and give him another shot.

★ **Patricia Arquette** Starring in NBC's *Medium*, the best of the crazy lady with crime-related visions series.

★ **Val Kilmer** Continued to portray pop-culture icons with roles as Batman and John Holmes. Voicing KITT in the remake of NBC's *Knight Rider* series.

★ **Gary Oldman** Perfected playing crazed miscreants through 2001's *Hannibal*. Has since mellowed into "good guy" role in *Batman Begins*.

★ **Dennis Hopper** Turn on your TV. Wait 30 seconds. He will materialize, dressed in black, shilling for Ameriprise. Not *Blue Velvet* scary, but...

★ **Christopher Walken** Parlayed turns in *True Romance* and *Pulp Fiction* into lesser appearances in every faux-Tarantino film, lately complemented with comedic flair.



★ **Bronson Pinchot** Agitated Janice Dickinson on *The Surreal Life*. And, um... Memo to Hollywood, No. 2: Rewatch *Beverly Hills Cop*.

★ **Michael Rapaport** Appeared as Phoebe's slow-witted boyfriend on *Friends*. And as slow-witted husband in sitcom *The War at Home*. Is actually quick-witted in *Maxim* interviews.

★ **Chris Penn** RIP, 1965–2006

★ **Saul Rubinek** Played Larry David's dentist, Dr. Funkhouser, on *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. Do not give him the finger—he'll have you killed.

★ **Tom Sizemore** Appeared in *Heat* (1995) and *Saving Private Ryan* (1998). Then went to hell and back. At press time: still back.

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IRON MAN

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THE BIG PICTURE SHOW

MAXIM GOES TO THE MOVIES

Special effects! Explosive action! Pasty guys in Speedos! Air conditioning! An inside preview of the blockbuster reasons you'll be hitting the multiplex this summer.



THE DARK KNIGHT

Batman is back—and as cheerful as ever.

Date: July 18
Stars: Christian Bale, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Heath Ledger, Gary Oldman, Aaron Eckhart
Director: Christopher Nolan

The gist: The Caped Crusader has nearly cleaned up Gotham City. Enter the Joker (Ledger) to realign the criminal balance. Bruce Wayne must come to terms with being a superhero. Maybe he can go the Peter Parker route and start banging Mary Jane?

Well-suited: Not since the batsuit got nipples for über-bomb *Batman & Robin* has the outfit been so tweaked (we hear it's got 110 separate pieces).

Anticipation level: Bat-tastic already, but Ledger's untimely death makes this the morbid must-see of the summer.



IRON MAN

He's your superhero in shining armor.

Date: May 2
Stars: Robert Downey Jr., Terrence Howard
Director: Jon Favreau

The gist: Billionaire Tony Stark gets kidnapped in Afghanistan, builds an armor suit—complete with flamethrowers—and decides to become a high-flying, world-saving superhero. What, you can't picture Bill Gates doing the same thing?

Killer crossover: Synergy alert! Tony Stark cameos in *The Incredible Hulk* this summer. Is that a sign that a movie adaptation of the Marvel superhero-group comic, *The Avengers*, is on the horizon?

Anticipation level: Full power. If you feel more at home in the Marvel universe than this one, get ready to blast off.



PINEAPPLE EXPRESS

The action comedy that *does* inhale.

Date: August 8
Stars: Seth Rogen, James Franco, Amber Heard
Director: David Gordon Green

The gist: It's a whole new genre: the weed action movie! Produced by Judd Apatow and written by Rogen and Evan Goldberg (the same duo who penned *Superbad*), this is the story of two stoners who witness a murder and have to run for their lives. "Even if they were sober, they're the last guys you'd want in an action movie," says coproducer Shauna Robertson.

Reefer faux-ness: "They have me smoking awful fake pot called Wizard Smoke," says Rogen. "Doctors will probably find out Wizard Smoke is deadly."

Anticipation level: High. So high.

ANTICIPATION METER

The rest of the slate, from run, don't walk to gouge-out-your-eyes.



The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 (8/8) Magic jeans still fit Gossip Girl and Ugly Betty.

Mamma Mia! (7/18) Even worse than an Abba musical? Meryl Streep's soprano.

Meet Dave (7/11) An Eddie Murphy sci-fi comedy? See *The Adventures of Pluto Nash*.



The Love Guru (6/20) Karma's a bitch, and so is sitting through this Mike Myers disaster.

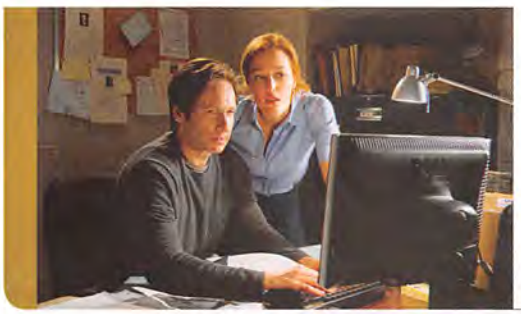
WALL-E (6/27) Disney uses cute cartoon robot to mask Commie propaganda.



Get Smart (8/1) Steve Carell rocks, but smart money says this one may sink at the box office.

You Don't Mess With the Zohan (6/6) Could be hairy for Mr. Sandler.

LEAST ANTICIPATED



X-FILES MOVIE

This sequel really is out to get you.

Date: July 25
Stars: David Duchovny, Gillian Anderson
Director: Chris Carter

The gist: Agents Mulder and Sculley are back to tackle paranormal shit and some requisite sexual tension. We assume.

Silent treatment: Writer-director-creator Chris Carter has managed to keep almost everything top secret. We couldn't even finagle the title out of him (believe us, we tried). "The anticipation makes people want to shake the present before Christmas morning," Carter says. "I want to preserve the element of surprise."

Anticipation level: A decade since the first *X-Files* flick, all the secrecy may be wishful thinking. Oh, who are we kidding? See you in line.



STEP BROTHERS

Like *The Brady Bunch*—with beer bellies.

Date: July 25
Stars: Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly
Director: Adam McKay

The gist: Two doughy men become enemies when their parents get married. "And that's kind of it!" says McKay. "They're layabouts: eating, playing *Guitar Hero*, not getting jobs."

Liar, liar: "Our budget is about $400 million," bullshits McKay. "Seventy percent of that was for CGI and effects. When you go to prison, you knock out the biggest guy first, so we're going to fucking dry-gulch Indiana Jones across the neck. Once Indy is gone, the rest fall."

Anticipation level: Shake and bake! Ferrell and Reilly proved their goofy chemistry in *Talladega Nights*.



INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL

It takes a while to think up a title that silly.

Date: May 22
Stars: Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett, Shia LaBeouf
Director: Steven Spielberg

The gist: Nineteen years after his "last" crusade, Indy's tangling with Soviet agents over the custody of said skull. Helping out? A greaser kid (LaBeouf) who may or may not be Indy Junior.

Fun fact: This is the first time Ford was properly whip-trained. "I worked with him for five weeks to help hone his skills," says whip master Anthony De Longis. "He was terrific."

Anticipation level: If any flick can live up to two decades of hype, it's this one.



HANCOCK

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's an a-hole!

Date: July 2
Stars: Will Smith, Charlize Theron
Director: Peter Berg

The gist: Sick of goody-two-shoes superheroes too busy saving kids from burning orphanages to get wasted and embarrass themselves? Then get a load of Hancock, the lackluster crime buster who flies drunk and has a propensity for mangling public property.

Super Will: Neat concept, but this action-comedy is on the radar because of box office hero Smith, and his director knows it. "He embraces it so totally that it works," says Berg. "There's a reason why he's the biggest movie star today."

Anticipation level: Up, up, and hovering at a respectable height.

The Incredible Hulk (6/13) Can't be as incredibly bad as Ang Lee's.

The Happening (6/13) A mystery virus causes suicide. Will M. Night movie do same?

Bangkok Dangerous (8/22) Awesome Pang brothers remake stars Nic Cage.

The International (8/15) Badass Clive Owen takes down an arms ring.

Hamlet 2 (8/22) Steve Coogan pens an awaited sequel in this Sundance smash.

Tropic Thunder (8/15) We love the smell of Stiller and blackface Downey Jr. in the morning.

Hellboy II: The Golden Army (7/11) Chain-smoking demon saves mankind, one-ups original.



MOST ANTICIPATED

ICON

Harrison Ford

The action godfather cracks his whip again in *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull.* But first he must escape our booby-trapped interview.

BY STEVEN RUSSELL PHOTOGRAPH BY NIGEL PARRY

SO HOW DID IT FEEL TO PUT INDY'S FEDORA BACK ON?
Talk about dressing for success. The original outfit still fits. When we started, I was trepidatious as to whether we could pull this movie off, but I'm confident that we did. I had to refresh my whip skills, since there's little opportunity in everyday life to employ a bullwhip.

WAS THE WHIP LYING AROUND YOUR HOUSE?
No, props like that are kept in a bombproof vault underneath George Lucas' house.

WHY DON'T YOU GET TO KEEP THEM?
Because he's George fucking Lucas.

GOOD POINT. DID WATCHING SYLVESTER STALLONE DRAG ROCKY AND RAMBO OUT OF MOTHBALLS GIVE YOU ANY RESERVATIONS ABOUT DUSTING OFF INDY?
I don't confuse myself with Stallone. He understands himself, and I understand myself. We have a whole different set of obligations.

MODERN ACTION FILMS ARE SYNONYMOUS WITH CGI EFFECTS. SHOULD WE EXPECT TO SEE A DIGITALLY ANIMATED INDY?
No, we've kept the films' gritty sense of physical reality. And I'm still doing as many of my own stunts as possible. It's always been my ambition that the audience feel the fear with Indy instead of seeing a blur of action and the back of a stunt man's head.

WHEN YOU FIRST READ THE SCRIPT, WERE THERE ANY STUNTS THAT MADE YOU THINK, *C'MON, GUYS, I'M 65 YEARS OLD*?
How old?

UM, 65?
Oh, I thought you said 55, and I was going to take that. There are several long fight scenes, and since it's always more fun to see Indy fight someone who's a foot taller, sometimes I'd get a bit huffed. I didn't suffer any injuries. But I trained hard to prepare, and I feel great—I'm in as good a shape now as when I was 45.

***STAR WARS* WAS AN IMMEDIATE SENSATION. WHEN DID YOU REALIZE YOUR LIFE HAD CHANGED FOREVER?**
Shortly after the first *Star Wars* was released, my then-wife and I played airport roulette—we'd go to the airport and catch the first flight to someplace we had never been before. That turned out to be Morocco. So then we drove across Morocco, and in this remote town there was a little theater playing two of my movies. I knew right then that it was over.

> "I HAD TO REFRESH MY WHIP SKILLS. THERE'S LITTLE OPPORTUNITY IN EVERYDAY LIFE TO EMPLOY A BULLWHIP."

WHICH CHARACTER DO YOU THINK IS MORE LIKE YOU, INDIANA JONES OR HAN SOLO?
Neither. I'd have to pick another character from my filmography, and I don't think I'm prepared to do that. Both those characters continue to attract an audience, though, to be passed from parents to their children on DVD.

YOU MAKE ABOUT $20 MILLION PER MOVIE. ARE YOU EVER ASTONISHED AT YOUR PAYCHECK?
I was at first, but then I got over that.

WHAT SORT OF THINGS DO YOU AND YOUR GIRLFRIEND, CALISTA FLOCKHART, DO ON YOUR 800-ACRE SPREAD IN WYOMING?
I don't get out there as much as I'd like to, because Calista is filming her TV show in Los Angeles. But there's cross-country skiing, and white-water rafting on a couple of miles of the Snake River that run through the property. And there are beautiful elk outside the window that eat our expensive nursery plants like it's a fucking salad bar.

DO YOU HAVE TO STOP FLYING AIRPLANES WHEN YOU SIGN ON TO MAKE A BIG-BUDGET MOVIE?
It's understood that I'm going to keep flying. And just to make sure, it's part of my contract.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD ANY CLOSE CALLS?
One helicopter had a power malfunction that resulted in its becoming a nonviable flying machine. It was totaled, but luckily the other pilot and I walked away without a scratch. And I had a wind shear event that crumpled the wings on my plane, doing $9,000 worth of damage. But what doesn't kill you makes you stronger.

ARE YOU STILL WEARING THE EARRING?
Yep, it's still there. People will come up and say, "When did you get an earring?" "Fifteen years ago. Would you fucking pay attention?"

WHAT MADE YOU GET YOUR EAR PIERCED?
A semidrunken lunch with Ed Bradley and Jimmy Buffett, who were both wearing earrings. Afterward I walked down Madison Avenue till I found the first jewelry store that pierced ears. I think people didn't notice for a while, because I don't wear it in movies, and I just have a little gold stud.

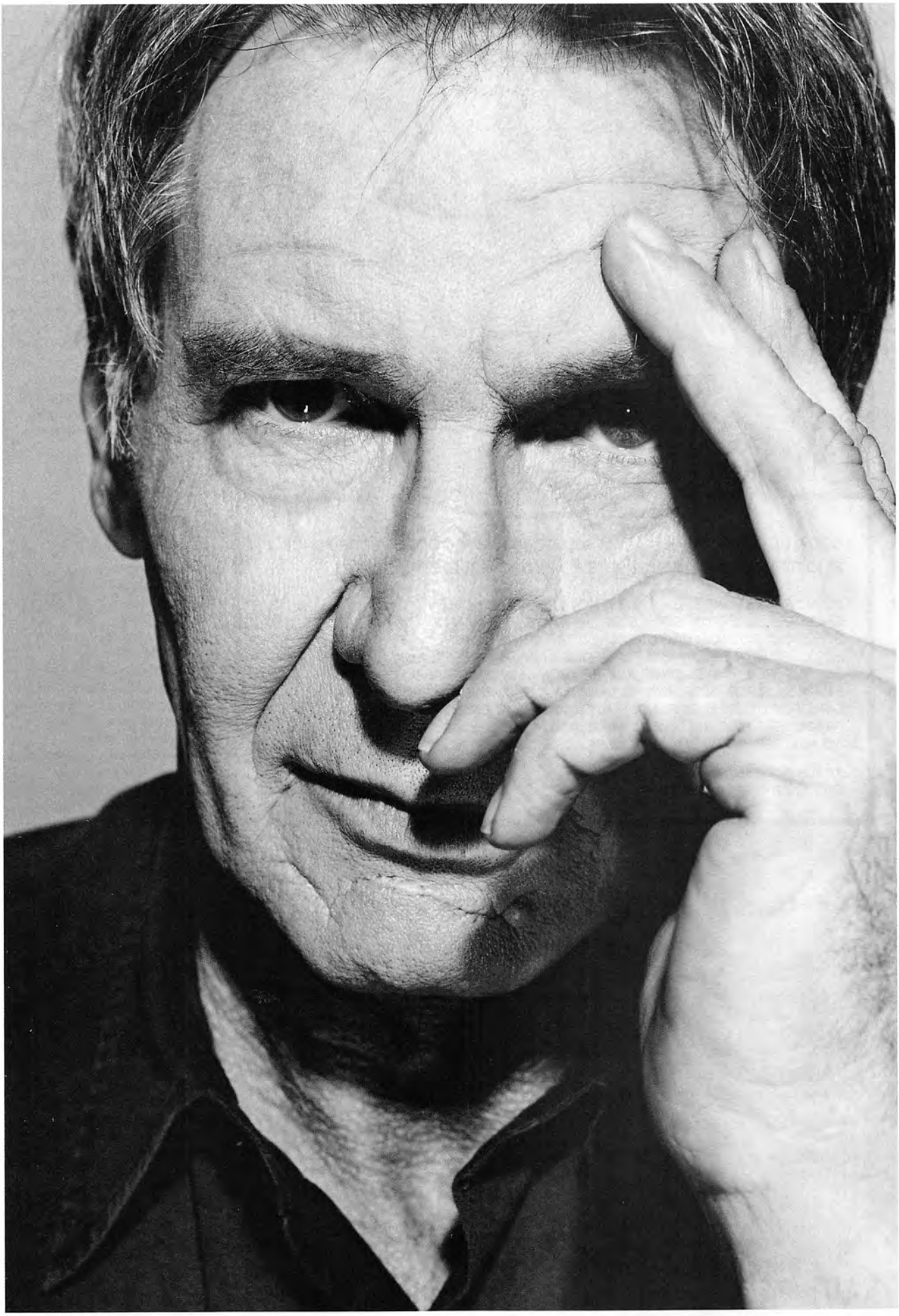
NEVER TRIED A HOOP OR SOMETHING DANGLY?
No, and I don't try on Calista's clothes, either.

WE WEREN'T GOING TO ASK. NOW THAT YOU'VE REVISITED INDY, IS THERE A CHANCE YOU'LL PULL HAN SOLO'S VEST BACK ON?
George has never introduced that topic, so I doubt it. And even though simplicity and lack of sophistication were part of Han's charm, he was a little too dumb to live to 65 years old.

WOULD YOU DO A *FIFTH* INDY MOVIE?
In a New York minute. It would be interesting to see Indy in the 1960s. But we might have to decide between putting him on a college campus or in a rocking chair. ●

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull is out May 22, in case you've been living under a relic.

STYLING, EVET SANCHEZ AT THE WALL GROUP; GROOMING, BILL CORSO



The SUPER Bs

Look, up on the screen! B-list superheroes who deserve their shot at joining the big boys in tights—*kapow!*—at the multiplex.

COMIC BOOKS HAVE BEEN FODDER FOR THE SILVER SCREEN SINCE THE SUPERMAN SERIALS OF THE 1940S. THE MAN OF STEEL AND BATMAN LONG SUSTAINED THE GENRE, WHICH EXPLODED WITH THE X-MEN AND SPIDER-MAN FRANCHISES. NOW SECOND-TIER MARVEL CRIME BUSTER IRON MAN IS CREATING SURPRISE SUPER-BUZZ, AND HOLLYWOOD IS SCOURING SECRET LAIRS FOR OTHER LESS FAMOUS BUT COOL COMIC BOOK CHARACTERS WHO DESERVE MOVIE IMMORTALITY. HEY, LOOK NO FURTHER: WE'VE GOT YOUR SUPER CHEAT SHEET!



BY STEVEN RUSSELL AND SEAN T. COLLINS
TITLE ILLUSTRATION BY COMICRAFT



SHE-HULK

FIRST APPEARED: THE SAVAGE SHE-HULK #1 (MARVEL) 1980

ORIGIN: HULK SMASH! SHE-HULK SEXY! A BLOOD TRANSFUSION FROM BRUCE BANNER LENDS HIS COUSIN SIMILAR ANGER-MANAGEMENT ISSUES, GREEN SKIN, AND SUPERHUMAN D-CUPS.

MOVIE POTENTIAL: WHEN NOT TOSSING 18-WHEELERS ACROSS STATE LINES, SHE-HULK IS A LAWYER WHO HANDLES SUPERHERO CASES. THAT'S CAMEO GOLD, PEOPLE!

HOLLYWOOD IDENTITY: JESSICA BIEL AND KATHERINE HEIGL SHOULD JELL-O WRESTLE FOR THE ROLE...OR JUST FOR EXERCISE!



LUKE CAGE

First appeared: *Hero for Hire* #1 (Marvel) 1972
Origin: Framed for heroin possession, the former Carl Lucas was subjected to prison experiments that bestowed super-strength and bullet-bouncing skin.
Movie potential: Though Cage is now an Avenger (and bald), his '70s blaxploitation roots, when he sported an Afro, squashed Harlem loan sharks, and shouted, "Sweet Christmas!" is ripe for retro treatment.
Hollywood identity: Start lifting again, Will Smith. You can totally rock that tiara and yellow blouse.



CAPTAIN CANUCK

First appeared: *Captain Canuck* #1 (Comely) 1975
Origin: A Royal Canadian Mountie absorbs powers from aliens, dons maple-leaf-emblazoned Spandex, and battles evil in a near future where Canada is—get this—one of the world's most powerful nations.
Movie potential: C.C. protects the border from an invasion...of Whopper-inhaling Americans, eh?
Hollywood identity: Keep it Canadian with Keanu!

BLACK WIDOW

First appeared: *Tales of Suspense* #52 (Marvel) 1964
Origin: This former KGB superagent not only defected but proved her love for the West by hooking up with Iron Man, Hawkeye, Hercules, and Daredevil. Foreign chicks, huh?
Movie potential: All this femme fatale needs is a license to kill, plenty of ammo, and John Woo.
Hollywood identity: We'd watch Jessica Alba read the phone book, so imagine her battling baddies and seducing villains. You just did.



NIXON

First appeared: *Hard Boiled* #1 (Dark Horse) 1990
Origin: The star of the ultraviolent graphic novel is an android programmed to think he's a tax collector—until his wiring snaps and brain-splattering hell breaks loose.
Movie potential: The brainchild of *Sin City*'s Frank Miller and *The Matrix*'s Geof Darrow. 'Nuff said.
Hollywood identity: Killing machine with midlife crisis? Somebody get Nic Cage the right hairpiece, stat!



NICK FURY

FIRST APPEARED: SGT. FURY & HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS #1 (MARVEL) 1963
ORIGIN: LONG CHARACTERIZED AS A COLD WAR SPYMASTER, FURY WAS RESTYLED TO RESEMBLE SAMUEL L. JACKSON.
MOVIE POTENTIAL: JACKSON DONS FURY'S EYE PATCH IN IRON MAN, SPARKING FANBOY DEMAND FOR HIS OWN MUTHAFUCKIN' FRANCHISE.
HOLLYWOOD IDENTITY: RELYING ON FOCUS GROUPS, THE STUDIO WILL PROBABLY CAST MARTIN LAWRENCE.



THE SANDMAN

First appeared: *The Sandman* #1 (D.C.) 1989
Origin: Head off to never-never land with the Maker of Dreams as he navigates the legends of humanity's collective unconscious (courtesy of author Neil Gaiman).
Movie potential: The comic that launched 1,000 goths is tailor-made for Tim Burton.
Hollywood identity: Jonathan Rhys-Meyers has the brooding pretty-boy thing down.



THE SAVAGE DRAGON



First appeared: *The Savage Dragon* #1 (Image) 1992
Origin: A green-skinned, head-finned powerhouse wakes up in a burning field with no memory of anything except the last few months' worth of cable TV and joins the Chicago police department. Who wouldn't?
Movie potential: He's got the blend of sarcasm, superstrength, and general indie-comic weirdness that made *Hellboy* a cult hit.
Hollywood identity: Just spray-paint the Rock green.

EMMA FROST

First appeared: *Uncanny X-Men* #129 (Marvel) 1980
Origin: Bad girl gone good! This mutant telepath, a.k.a. the White Queen, ditched the nefarious Hellfire Club (named after an infamous N.Y.C. S&M joint) to join the X-Men.
Movie potential: Her dominatrix style would make her a va-va-voomish addition to the Wolverine flicks.
Hollywood identity: Charlize Theron is wearing this outfit in our heads.



THE FLAMING CARROT



First appeared: *Visions* #1 (Vision) 1979
Origin: After reading 5,000 comics, this working-class surrealist hero launches a war on crime using a carrot mask and a pogo stick.
Movie potential: A concept rich in satirical humor and beta carotene; it could make the zaniest superhero movie since, um, *Howard the Duck*.
Hollywood identity: We'd say Carrot Top, but he's probably much, much too busy.



THOR

FIRST APPEARED: JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #83 (MARVEL) 1962
ORIGIN: THE GOD OF THUNDER IS A SQUARE-JAWED, KINDA DUMB BLOND WITH ONE BOOT IN NORSE MYTHOLOGY AND ONE ON EARTH.
MOVIE POTENTIAL: BY ODIN'S BEARD! WITH HULK-LIKE STRENGTH AND A STORM-WREAKING HAMMER, ALL THOR NEEDS IS A LED ZEP SOUNDTRACK.
HOLLYWOOD IDENTITY: YOUR WINGED HELMET AWAITS, MCCONAUGHEY.

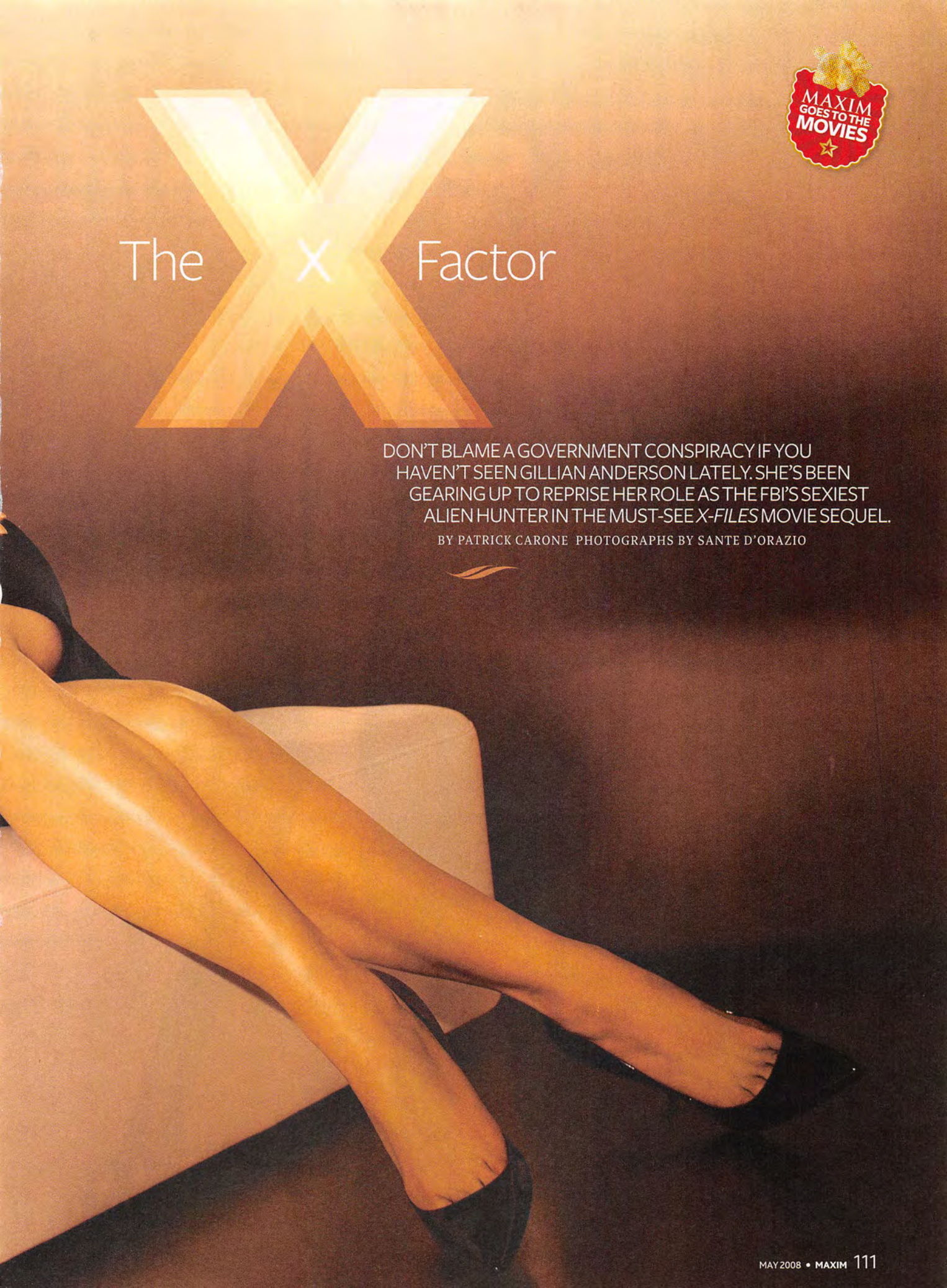
THE GREEN ARROW

First appeared: *More Fun Comics* #73 (D.C.) 1941
Origin: Robin Hood redux: Millionaire playboy becomes master archer to survive a shipwreck, then defends the helpless and left-wing social causes back in Star City.
Movie potential: Kevin Smith made this goateed cheeseball hip again by penning a limited series long on cred, violence, and references to oral sex.
Hollywood identity: Is Sean Penn's facial hair a fashion statement or Method preparation?





Dolce&Gabbana dress and shoes



The X Factor

DON'T BLAME A GOVERNMENT CONSPIRACY IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN GILLIAN ANDERSON LATELY. SHE'S BEEN GEARING UP TO REPRISE HER ROLE AS THE FBI'S SEXIEST ALIEN HUNTER IN THE MUST-SEE *X-FILES* MOVIE SEQUEL.

BY PATRICK CARONE PHOTOGRAPHS BY SANTE D'ORAZIO



La Perla top **Miu Miu** skirt **Dolce&Gabbana** shoes

WHEN THE *X-FILES* PREMIERED ON TV IN 1993, the purpose of Gillian Anderson's role as FBI scientist Dana Scully was to provide a rational counterpoint to partner Fox Mulder's (David Duchovny) obsession with assorted creepy-crawlies. As the series became a huge hit, Anderson became a bona fide sex symbol. Lucky for us, she has five movies in the pipeline, including July's super-mysterious sequel to the first *X-Files* movie. Despite our prodding, she has sworn not to divulge any of the film's secrets. Fortunately, that doesn't mean she can't be revealing in other ways.

WHAT CAN YOU SPILL ABOUT THE NEW MOVIE?
Well, there's not much I can tell you.

ARE YOU WORRIED YOU'LL GET ABDUCTED?
No, but it would depress a lot of people who worked to make this movie special. We've gone to pretty extreme lengths to keep things secret. I mean, the crew didn't even get copies of the script, which made shooting pretty challenging.

IS THE BIG SECRET THAT THE SEQUEL IS ACTUALLY A ROMANTIC COMEDY?
Definitely not! That would be so lame. I can tell you that it's going to be scary and gruesome.

WHEN *THE X-FILES* WAS AIRING, DID YOU REALIZE YOU WERE ON SUCH AN ICONIC SHOW?
It wasn't until I had some distance that I realized how unique the dynamic between David Duchovny and me was. And it's got very little to do with us; it's something that exists *despite* us.

HAVE YOU WATCHED *CALIFORNICATION*, WHERE HE PLAYS A SEXAHOLIC NOVELIST?
I have. I actually thought it would be funny to play a character who's obsessed with Scully and wants to have sex dressed as Scully. But it didn't happen. I guess having sex with David on the show would just be too weird for fans to see.

DO PEOPLE ASSUME YOU'RE AS SERIOUS A PERSON AS SCULLY IN REAL LIFE?
Surprisingly, yes. And I am serious in certain aspects of my life, but I'm also incredibly goofy and silly. I don't act my age most of the time.

DO YOU HAVE RUN-INS WITH *X-FILES* FREAKS?
Not too much. But I do get fans who tell me that creator Chris Carter should call them if he wants to know what's *really* going on in the universe.

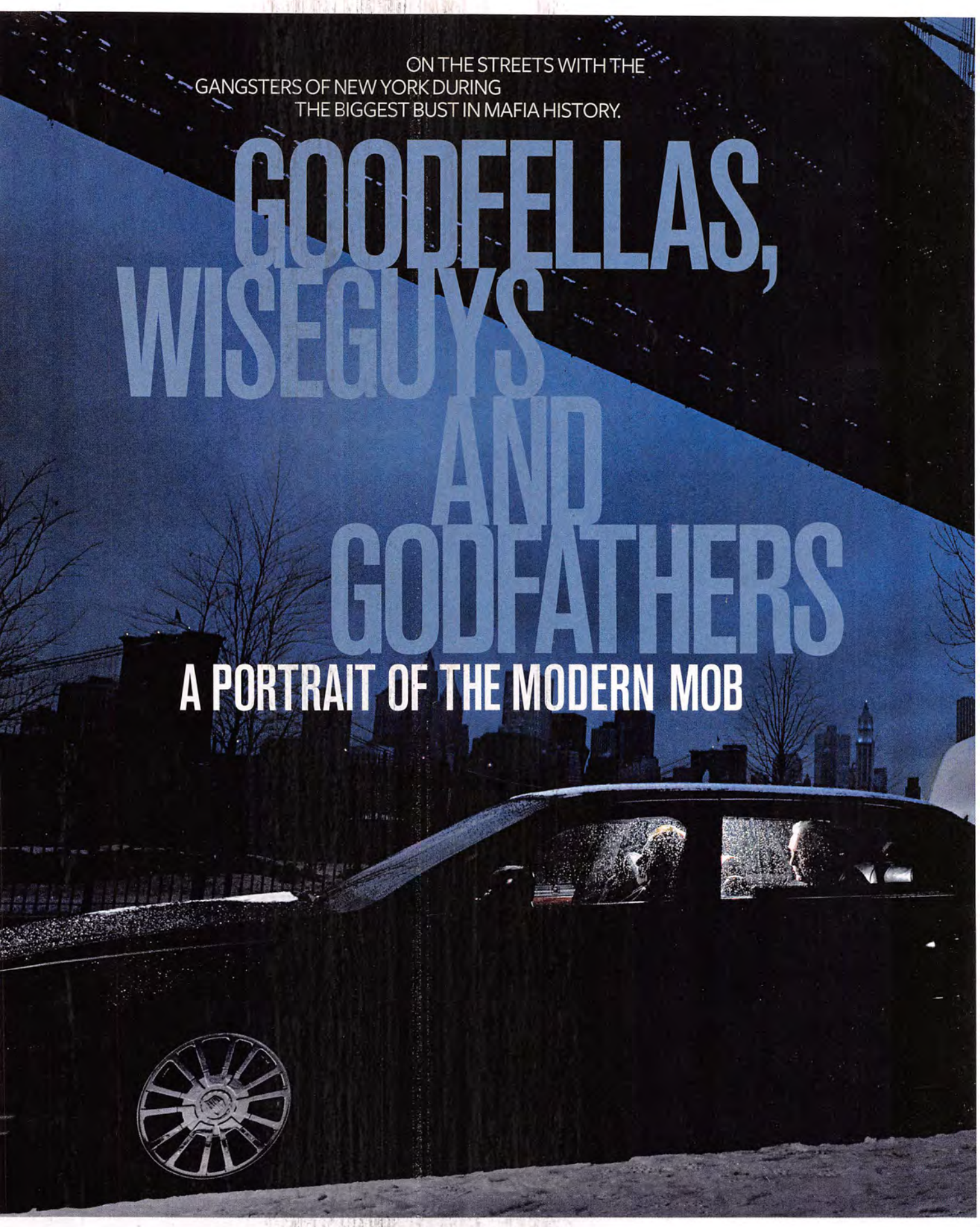
WOW. HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THAT?
"That's great! Thank you very much!"

WHAT WILL YOU DO IF EXTRATERRESTRIALS DO EXIST AND DECIDE TO CONQUER EARTH?
That would be just fine with me, as long as they make me their queen. ●



Vince knit top
Helmut Lang skirt
Dolce&Gabbana black bustier

STYLING, KAREN SHAPIRO; VANCOUVER FASHION CONSULTANT, LEILA BANI FOR THEYREP.COM; HAIR, JONATHAN HANOUSEK FOR EXCLUSIVE ARTISTS/BIOLAGE; MAKEUP, KATHY JEUNG USING MAKEUP FOREVER AT MAGNETLA.COM; PROP STYLING, TRACY DOW; VANCOUVER PRODUCTION, SARAH TESLA FOR TESLA PRODUCTIONS



ON THE STREETS WITH THE GANGSTERS OF NEW YORK DURING THE BIGGEST BUST IN MAFIA HISTORY.

GOODFELLAS, WISEGUYS AND GODFATHERS

A PORTRAIT OF THE MODERN MOB

BY MICHAEL DOLAN, WITH DAN PEARSON PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS BUCK



"YOU CAN SAY IT," FRANK SAYS. "I LOOK LIKE JOE PESCI. MY FRIENDS always tell me that. At least they say it behind my back. They know I'll slit their throats."

I've only known Frank for 15 seconds and he has already given me my first uncomfortable ultimatum. If I tell him he does indeed look like Joe Pesci, I'm the type of person whose throat he wants to slit. If I don't, I'm immediately disagreeing with him and getting off to a bad start.

It's a Tuesday evening in New York City's Little Italy, and the enclave of old-school bars, souvenir shops, and tourist-driven restaurants is beginning to fill up, largely with British tourists who want to add a *Sopranos* safari to their vacation. As they walk past a sleepy restaurant on Mulberry Street, little do they know that the two men seated near the front door are high-ranking officers of an organized crime family.

Frank (not his real name) is small and barrel-chested, the kind of body you get from spending a good portion of your adult life in jail. Philly (also an alias) is a dapper, younger-looking version of Christopher Walken, who has been in "the life" for several decades as well. They've both agreed to sit with me because a friend of mine, Dan Pearson, is well-known in their world. Dan grew up in the house of one of the most notorious organized crime leaders in Mob history, but later gave it all up to settle down and start a family. Knowing I was curious about the modern-day Mafia, he persuaded some of his old friends to let me "bounce" with them as they tried to earn. Now I'm wondering if maybe it was a bad idea.

"You're with Danny boy," Frank says. "He vouches for you. You know what that means, right?"

Having seen *Donnie Brasco*, I'm familiar with the term, but a soldier I'll meet later will put it more bluntly:

"This ain't the fucking movies," he'd tell me. "That's all bullshit. If you fuck us on this, your body will visit all five boroughs at the same time, and so will Dan's. *Capisce?*"

Si, capisce.

* * *

IT TURNED OUT TO BE A PROPITIOUS TIME TO MEET THE MAFIA. TWO days later, Frank, Philly, and dozens of other high-ranking organized crime figures would be hauled in by police in of one of the largest arrests in city history. All told, federal prosecutors would hand out 80 indictments to 62 men, mostly members of the Gambino crime family, on charges ranging from murder of a court officer to extortion of union funds.

The indictments would reveal just how alive the government believes the Mafia is, and prosecutors would hail the busts as yet more nails in a coffin they've been steadily burying since the '50s. But by then my tour guides would have me convinced the raids were just a pinprick on an organization that—contrary to rumors—is not only alive but thriving.

"We adapted to the times, and the wealth, of today's world," is how Frank put it.

The Mafia, I'd learn, has long since adjusted to prevent any one raid from interfering with its business. Gone are the days when it maintained a stranglehold on everything illegal; the new Mob is all about using its traditional ferocity to break into legal enterprises, thereby limiting its exposure to prosecution. At the same time, it's still struggling to maintain its self-proclaimed traditions of honor, loyalty, and justifiable violence even as its members increasingly see them as anachronistic.

* * *

LIKE MANY PEOPLE, I HAD THOUGHT THE ITALIAN MAFIA WAS ON the verge of extinction. My knowledge had come almost exclusively from *The Godfather*, *GoodFellas*, and *The Sopranos*. Its life cycle, at least according to pop culture, had gone something like this: At the turn of the 20th century, a feudal Sicilian and Italian organization called the ➤➤





The February bust led to the indictments of 62 mafiosi, most from the Gambino family. Only two indictments stuck.



Black Hand emigrated, along with millions of Italians to America where it got rich and powerful off bootlegging, extortion, and loan sharking. In New York City, factions engaged in wholesale slaughter over profits until 1931, when a 34-year-old rising crime star named Charles "Lucky" Luciano created the "five families" structure, in which territories and rackets were carved out to prevent intramural squabbling and unnecessary attention. It built a monopoly of vice and spread its enterprise across the country. Somewhere in there a lot of guys were shot in barber's chairs, Al Capone became head of a sister organization in Chicago, and Michael Corleone testified to the Senate a crime family boss.

Over *zuppe di pesce*, Frank waxes nostalgic about the golden age. "In my mind what we did was honorable. We were the people immigrants could come to when they had a problem. In exchange for that, you could walk into their stores and they would give you the best of what they had." He throws out tales of stickups and mistresses and friends who have disappeared. "I tell my daughter that when I die, they need to bury me with a .38. I know I'm going to hell, and there are some guys down there waiting for me that I'm gonna have to do a second time."

Things changed in the '80s, right about the time Sharon Stone's *Casino* character was doing lots of drugs in Vegas, along came a U.S. attorney named Rudy Giuliani. He made it his mission to break up the Mafia in New York. In one of his cases, known as the "pizza connection," 22 wise guys were arrested in conjunction with a billion-dollar heroin trade. In a second case, Giuliani helped indict the heads of all five families. "Our approach," Giuliani said at the time, "is to wipe out the five families."

The final death knell seemed to come when John Gotti was arrested. Known as the Teflon Don, the well-coiffed Gotti was a fixture on TV and in newspapers, almost flaunting his ability to conduct business outside the reach of the law. Eventually, the Feds busted him, and in 1992 Gotti was given a sentence of life without parole. After his incarceration, it was said that the Gambino crime family, of which he was the head, would never be the same. Philly informs me this is indeed true.

"When John Gotti and his crew got busted, it actually made the family *stronger*," Philly explains. "The organization learned from its mistakes. There are now contingency plans for when arrests come."

According to one member of the Gambino family, the organization currently has more than 2,000 made men across the United States. Each made man could have between 10 and 15 associates earning underneath him in businesses that encompass everything from construction to unions and entertainment to nightclubs.

"The Luccheses always had the sanitation routes," Philly explains. "The Genovese family had the gambling. The Bonannos had the heroin. But the Gambinos have been involved in everything from A to Z. It's been estimated that the Gambinos are a multibillion-dollar enterprise. If something happens, it can create a hiccup in the national economy."

As an example, Philly throws out trucking companies, which have long been Gambino territory. "There's maybe 28 major companies from here to Queens," he says. "All legitimate businesses, but let's say many of them have a 'connection' to the family."

When you think about the number of items that are delivered by trucks daily, any hitch could stagger a local economy. "The soda you have with lunch, the food you eat at the restaurant, even the magazine this story will be in," explains Philly. "It all gets delivered by a truck. That's how involved we are in your everyday life."

Even as the Mafia has maintained its interest in trucking, it has also expanded into new territory. "The game and its economics have changed," Philly says. "The days of breaking legs over $500 are over. Now if you owe me money, you've got a way to get it and you don't even have to break the law to do it. What's your credit score? If you can get someone with a 700 credit score, I'll hook them up with someone at a bank and they'll get a $100,000 line of credit."

"Shit," Frank says, "With a 700 credit score, we can get them a $100,000 line of credit at four different banks."

"Exactly," says Philly. "You could have $400,000 in a week. Of course, as payment for our help, you'll return the money you owe us and kick in another 10 percent. If you come back into good times, by all means pay it back. But we don't care if you don't pay it back. You can spend it all, declare bankruptcy, and tell the bank to go fuck themselves, for all we care. We made $40,000 off of you in a couple of hours, and it's all legit."

"Do you know anyone with a 700 credit score?" Frank asks. "We'll get them set up, and I'm sure you would see a little of it."

* * *

TWO DAYS LATER, AS THE SUN RISES OVER A COLD FEBRUARY DAY IN New York City, the Feds make their move. The prized catches were, Feds believe, the Gambino family's acting boss, John "Jackie Nose" D'Amico; acting underboss, Domenico "Italian Dom" Cefalu; and *consigliere*, Joseph "Jo Jo" Corozzo, along with the brother and nephew of the late John Gotti, three other Gambino captains, and three acting captains.

At the press conference trumpeting the bust, Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said, "This was a bad day for organized crime." The indictments included charges of a 1976 assassination of a Brooklyn court officer, the 1977 murder of an associate of the Gambino family, and the 1990 slaying of an armored car driver during a Kennedy Airport theft. It also contained several charges of racketeering conspiracy and extortion.

"Today we serve notice that anyone who aspired to a position in organized crime will meet the same fate," said Brooklyn U.S. Attorney Benton Campbell. "We will not rest until we rid our communities and businesses of the scourge of organized crime." The indictments were allegedly helped along by a government informant named Joseph Vollaro, the owner of Andrews Trucking, a Staten Island–based firm that was believed to have earned $400,000 for the Gambino family. Though Vollaro was not recognized as a made man, it is believed the ranking Gambino officers violated their own protocol by speaking with him on a regular basis. They did this while Vollaro was wearing a government wire.

For three days after the bust, I hear nothing from my tour guides in

PHOTOGRAPHS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP): COURTESY OF BRYAN MCALISTER; COURTESY OF CHRIS BUONOCORE; VERN FISHER

the underworld. Finally, Philly reaches out and agrees to meet with me for dinner at La Mela, a Little Italy institution on Mulberry Street.

"Frank almost went on vacation for a while," Philly says. "They didn't have enough to keep him so they had to let him go. He's laying low now. Everyone is. We've already been warned, be careful who you talk to."

I ask about the effect the raid has on the organization. "What effect?" Philly says. "Nothing changes except for the names. Business goes on. You still have to kick upstairs. In a week, when the smoke settles, we'll have a big sit-down and people will be reassigned."

Philly is remarkably calm for a guy who just got picked up three days ago. "It's part of the game," he says. "They pick you up and then they let you go in front of your friends and say, 'Thanks for the information.' They try to fuck with you and cause some commotion inside the organization. I've already established that I'm not afraid to do the time, so it's all bullshit."

"WHEN GOTTI GOT BUSTED," PHILLY EXPLAINS, "IT MADE THE FAMILY STRONGER."

Philly is so relaxed, in fact, he talks about taking a trip out West. There's a guy opening a club out there, and he needs an investor to sink a few million into it. "We've got a guy who can do that," Philly says. "It's legit, but we never would get the business without the connection. That's why they call mobsters 'connected.'"

But what's the difference between people who know you and people who fear you? Where is the line between legitimate and criminal?

"There is no line," Philly says. "That's the idea. If you're the government and you want to find the line, good luck. That's why these raids only happen when there's a rat. *They* draw the line for the Feds. Otherwise they wouldn't be able to find it with a fuckin' map." With this he shakes his head. "What could they possibly have had on that guy to get him to turn in 60 people? It's a joke."

According to Philly, the recent bust is just another attempt by elected officials to grandstand and show an apathetic public that they are doing their jobs. He points to the fact that all 62 guys were put under the same indictment. "You know how long it's gonna take to sort all that shit out? By the time any of this gets to trial, maybe 15 percent of it will stick. Mark my words."

After we lay waste to three family-style plates of pasta, Philly has to leave to head uptown. Business awaits.

"Mike," he says. "If you're gonna hang out, you need a nickname. There are a million Mikes in New York. Did you have a nickname growing up?"

"People just call me Mike D," I say.

"That's bullshit. How 'bout Mikey the Pen?"

"Does that mean people will think that I kill with a pen?"

"Maybe you can say you kill people's reputations."

* * *

One A.M. that night: Conversation between Philly and Dan Pearson.

Dan: Hello?

Philly: What are you doin'?

Dan: Sleeping.

Philly: Oh. Listen, is your friend a cop?

Dan: Who?

Philly: Your friend, the Pen.

Dan: Mike? Are you fucking kidding me? He's a writer.

Philly: How sure are you?

Dan: C'mon, man. Do you really think I would bring a cop around you? I can't believe you would even ask that.

Philly: You're sure?

Dan: He may be Irish and a little out of shape, but he ain't a cop. He's a writer.

Philly: All right. You vouched for him. Don't forget. *[click]*

* * *

FRANK AND PHILLY WERE OFFICERS, OPERATING LARGELY ABOVE the Mafia's daily grind. One of the aspects of the Mob I was interested in was the life of the soldiers, the guys who struggled to "make a nut" for their bosses, often with their fists. Had anything changed for them? To help me find out, Pearson arranged a ride-along with a couple of street guys we met in Brooklyn under the overhead tracks of the subway. Loud noise, Pearson explained, interferes with any potential microphones.

"I don't have to pat you down, do I?" asks a soldier named "Jo Jo" (no relation to the "Jo Jo" arrested in the bust) when the meet goes down. Jo Jo stands 6'3" and weighs over 350 pounds. His head is shaved, and he wears a light leather jacket, blue jeans, and white sneakers. And one thing becomes very clear—if I piss him off enough, he will have no problem killing me, and it will not so much as affect his appetite.

"Don't take it personally, pal," he says. "Paranoia keeps you alive in this line of work. Even if it means the untimely demise of someone else." Teddy, another soldier, laughs. In this world premature death seems »

HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

The blood-soaked world of New York's Five Families.



Bonanno Founded by Joseph "Joe Bananas" Bonanno Sr. (above), the story of the family was told by Gay Talese in *Honor Thy Father*. In the '70s, Federal Agent Joe "Donnie Brasco" Pistone famously infiltrated the group.



Gambino In 1957, Carlo Gambino (above)—said to be the primary inspiration for Vito Corleone in *The Godfather*—took over the family that now bears his name. It's long been the most powerful of the five families.



Colombo Originally known as the Profaci family, the Colombos gained renown under fame-hungry boss Joe Colombo (above). The 1971 film *The Gang That Couldn't Shoot Straight* is based on a faction of the family.



Genovese The family founded by "Lucky" Luciano (above) and later run by Vito Genovese, was taken over by the "Oddfather," Vincent "the Chin" Gigante, who's said to be the model for Uncle Junior on *The Sopranos*.



Lucchese Famous among movie fans as the inspiration for *GoodFellas*, the Lucchese family rose to power under boss Gaetano "Tommy" Lucchese (above). The New Jersey contingent inspired *The Sopranos*.





"Teflon Don" John Gotti (left, in 1990) took control of the Gambino crime family after orchestrating the hit on boss Paul Castellano in 1985 (above).

inevitable, but remains a steady source for humor. Teddy also has a nearly shaved head and a stocky build. His demeanor is calm and measured, like a man who feels like all his words are being recorded for posterity, thanks to the Feds. "No offense, buddy," he says. "But that's him talking. I ain't saying shit today."

With pleasantries exchanged, Pearson and I get into a white, sparkling clean Cadillac Escalade and head to an innocuous family-style Italian restaurant nearby for lunch. "In this life you don't have an office," Pearson explains. "You bounce around all day from one place to the next. Restaurants are one place where you get to spend a few hours off your feet talking. I think that's why all Mob guys are huge. They eat all day."

At lunch Jo Jo and Teddy explain how they got into the "family" business. "Most of my family was in the life," Jo Jo says. "It's no different than if your grandfather's a cop, your father's a cop, so you become a cop. They were gangsters. They used to send me into stores to start trouble. They'd say, 'Here's a hundred dollars. Go into this store and punch the guy behind the counter in the face.' Then they'd go in and offer the guy protection for a couple hundred a month. So the store owner is paying protection to the guy who's causing him trouble in the first place."

After a ridiculous amount of pastries and homemade grappa, the check arrives. The bill comes out to over $400, and it gets passed around to me. "You got this, right, pal?" Jo Jo asks. "Tell *Maxim* to pay for it. Listen, how do we get 20 percent of what *Maxim* earns?" That is the question every gangster asks himself: How do I get 20 percent of what you have, in perpetuity, until you're dead?

"All right, pal," Jo Jo says as we leave. "Let's take a ride and do some business." As we head for Manhattan, I imagine this is what it is like to be a hostage: sitting in the backseat with no mention of where you're going, whom you're seeing, or if danger might be forthcoming.

"Don't shit yourself," Teddy says. "If it was going to be serious, we'd be carrying guns."

Working for the Mob, Jo Jo explains, is like any other job, only a street guy doesn't pay taxes to the government; he pays them to his family—in this case, the head of his crew. A good earner might kick as much as 50 percent of what he makes. The head of his crew takes a piece and kicks the rest up, and so on. For that tax, you receive the protection of the family. If you've got a problem, you've got the muscle to solve it.

The flipside of that equation is that there are no mitigating circumstances surrounding that 50 percent.

"When business gets bad," Jo Jo adds, "you get laid off. We get killed. Some guys can't take it and get out. Former street guys are everywhere—cops, firemen, Wall Street."

After getting in the car, Jo Jo informs me of the next destination. They're on their way to see someone who owes them a favor. The guy stopped returning calls, and the worst thing you can do to a Mob guy is try to ignore them.

While driving, Jo Jo daydreams about life after crime. "I won't miss a bit about this—the ulcers you get when you need to make your nut. I'd like to get married and have kids like you have. But this isn't a life for a father. I've put my sister and her kids through enough being in and out of jail. I'd like to kick back and relax. And with all the money being thrown around today, there has to be a better way."

As we head into midtown, Teddy warns me, "Buddy, you better think twice before you go into this office with us. Whatever happens, happens. If it goes the wrong way and you're standing there, you could get hit with a conspiracy charge."

"See," Jo Jo says. "You think we've been afraid of being identified, but we've been protecting *you* all along. If you knew who we were and what we were doing, the Feds would be knocking on your door."

"So," Teddy says, "you want to come over to the dark side?"

"No, thanks," I say. Pearson and I get out of the car on Eighth Avenue.

"If you want to meet up with us later," Jo Jo says, "I'll give you a call around midnight. I'm sure your wife won't have a problem with that. And bring that *Maxim* credit card, motherfucker."

* * *

THREE WEEKS AFTER THE BUST, PROSECUTORS OFFERED PLEA DEALS to 60 of the 62 defendants. "As a practical matter, it is highly unlikely that all 62 defendants will proceed to trial," Assistant U.S. Attorney Joey Lipton wrote in court papers. "Plea agreements will likely reduce the numbers." Only the two defendants charged with murder—Charles Carneglia and Nicholas Corozzo—were not offered a plea.

A few days later, I meet up with Philly again in Little Italy. The restructuring is going according to plan. "No one is making any big new moves, but all the business from before the bust is still happening. A lot of the guys are out on bail already. I told you this was going to go away."

Despite the relative calm in the organization, Philly is more nervous than ever before. He looks disheveled and almost prefers to talk about Mob life than his personal life.

"My ex-wife served me to get additional child support," he says. "I have a week to come up with the money. If not, I violate my parole."

In fact, the government has already started to seize some of his assets, including his current wife's car. "They even took my kid's car seat," he laments.

Because he's close to going back to jail, Philly has decided to stay away from anything that has his name on it—cars, the house, the office. "They've got to be following me," he says. "I wasn't even parked in front of my house when they took my car. How did they know where it was?" Philly compares his plight to that of the other 61 guys who were busted.

"It's all about money," he says. "If you've got it, you can get a good lawyer and stay out of jail. If not, you do time. It's part of the job."

Some things never change. Early death, vast segments of a life swallowed by prison, betrayal at the hands of your closest friends. Why still do it? I ask Philly.

"I would never want to do anything else. The money, the girls, the action—what more could you ask for?" ●

"GIRLS, MONEY, ACTION," SAYS PHILLY. "WHAT MORE COULD YOU ASK FOR?"

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1. Guns & Guts in Alaska

Outfits such as Turnagain Trails and Alaska Bush Adventures feature grizzly bear and moose hunts as well as fishing expeditions. But to truly kill in style, go with Alaska Coastal Marine. They offer guided boat-based black bear hunting trips straight out of Homer. On the skiff (big enough for a party of six at $3,500/person), you're fed like kings and spend evenings in the lounge boozing with your buds. Want to creep out your new bride on your return? Guides will help you skin a kill, and taxidermy for a Burt Reynolds bearskin rug is a mere $1,200. *alaskacoastalhunts.com*

2. Macao's Casino Lisboa

The former Portuguese colony sits on the South China Sea and, like Hong Kong, is largely independent of the "no fun" rules of mainland China. The flashy Grand Lisboa Casino just opened in February 2007, but its predecessor lingers across the street. Built in 1970, Casino Lisboa and its glitzy roulette wheel roof look like Vegas before it went corporate. It's still the den of dice, but every other vice is easily accessible at hot spots like Hotel Fortuna's nightclub, with 24 VIP massage rooms and more than 30 karaoke rooms. *crosspointcruises.com, hotelfortuna.com*

3. Drinkin' & Drivin' in Napa

The Solage Calistoga resort ($450 per night) features acres of wine country and a mud bar where groomsmen can get "plastered" with volcanic clay. Nearby, Bennett Lane Winery's "Put a Cork in It" program ($175/person) brings you via limo to a private tasting that ends with your personal vino blend. Then head for nearby Infineon Speedway for the Jim Russell Racing Drivers School, where you'll be strapped into a Formula 3 car for laps around the 2.52-mile circuit. Your one-day Grand Prix Master Program runs $2,495. *solagecalistoga.com, jimrussellusa.com, bennettlane.com*

4. Loco in Los Cabos

First, catch a chartered jet at Teterboro. Six first-class hours later, two chauffeured Escalades drive you to the beachfront villas at One&Only Palmilla Resort, where your oceanside tee times beckon. The next day a private yacht takes everyone deep-sea fishing for prize marlin, followed by 90-minute deep-tissue massages. Sick of the heavy dude-time? A table reservation awaits at the exclusive Esperanza hotel for dinner and drinks. At $14,125 per person for this eight-man getaway, it's not a trip for the faint of wallet. *fourhundred.com, oneandonlyresorts.com*

ILLUSTRATION, HIROKI TADA!

WIN ANY ARGUMENT

The definitive guide to administering a savage rhetorical beat-down.

Whether it's a bargument with your pals or a lamp-throwing bust-up with your girlfriend, every kind of argument is a structured war. "Verbal fights are combat without the physical violence other species in the animal world get into," says forensic psychiatrist Mark Levy. Too bad your body hasn't figured that one out yet. Millions of years of evolution have taught us to react one of two ways to any kind of danger, fight or flight. A hormonal response that pumps loads of adrenaline into your bloodstream, juices up your heart rate, dilates your pupils, and makes you sweat like Shaq—isn't exactly conducive to settling who should pick up the tab. Here's how you calm the beast inside and serenely pick your opponent apart.

Be Prepared

"Always have more information than the other person," advises Neil Strauss, author of *Rules of the Game*. That doesn't mean revealing your hand at the outset. By holding back crucial info, you lure an opponent into revealing everything he knows. "Let's say you're trying to get your girlfriend to admit she's cheating, and you already know what's happened," says Strauss. "Play dumb and pretend you don't know and she'll dig her own grave by overexplaining." Just a *metaphoric* grave? Damn.

Know Your Weaknesses

Feel free to bring up a counterargument to your main point, because "it makes you seem more trustworthy," says Noah Goldstein, University of Chicago Graduate School of Business professor and coauthor of *Yes!: 50 Scientifically Proven Ways to Be Persuasive*. "If I'm arguing for the death penalty and I show I'm knowledgeable about the reasons *against* the death penalty, you have to assign me more credibility." Fine, but not street cred. You have to kill for that.

Switch Gears

If you don't like where an argument is headed, just switch the topic of conversation to anything more agreeable. "After talking about something else entirely, bring up your original point again," says Strauss. "They're likely to have changed their minds."

Say Again

"See if there's a certain key word they use with a lot of passion." says Strauss. "They may say 'true,' as in what's true to them. Just repeat that word in your own sentences and you'll get a more positive response."

Look the Part

Debating the subtle fineries of Southern rap and don't know your Lil Waynes from your Lil Scrappys? Look like you do and it won't matter. "People who slouch are always going to be less believed than those who exude confidence," says Goldstein. "Even if there's no difference in the strength of the arguments themselves." Really? Damn you, spina bifida!

Fightin' Words

Harvard Law's Alan Dershowitz offers some tips on changing minds.

If Pulled Over for Speeding
"Explain calmly when you left your last location and where you are now, and let the policeman do the math in his head and figure out that you couldn't have gone that fast. Give him the facts that will lead him to the conclusion that he may have made a mistake."

Getting a Raise
"Illustrate to your boss why you're so good. Let him come to the conclusion that you're not someone they want to lose. Explain why you're indispensable and drop the hint that maybe other companies think you are, too. You let the other guy figure out the key to your argument and then you own them."

Your Girlfriend Wants to Move In
"Don't start by saying something directly like, 'I don't want to move in with you.' Make statements indirectly to make her think bunking together is not a good idea. Talk about her autonomy and how wonderful she is on her own and lead her to the inevitable conclusion—she's not going to move in."





That's the last time we go to dinner at Jackson Pollock's house.

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL LEWIS/GALLERY STOCK

FIT TO FLY

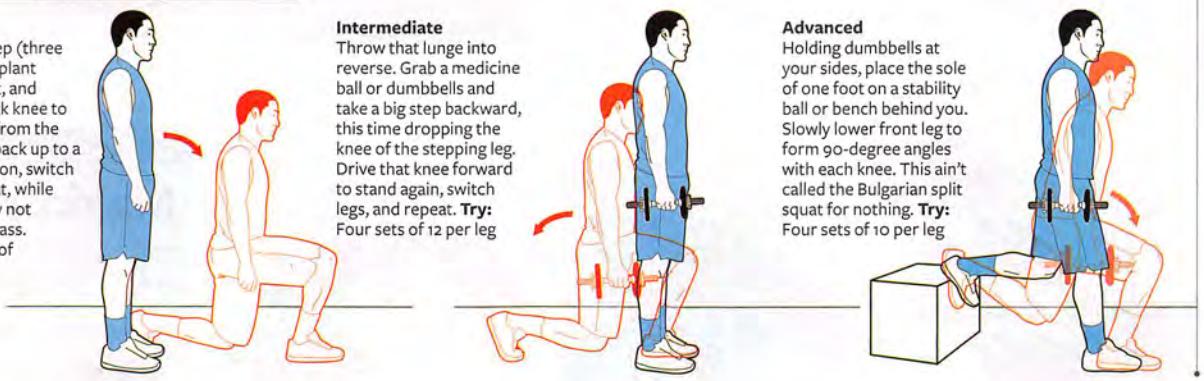
Don't stay grounded: Show your legs some love.

Dwight Howard's recent slam-dunk contest showing—he leapt from inside the free throw line and *threw* the ball into the basket—was a breakout performance (pictured). And while he may be a physical specimen, it didn't come without work. "In high school I couldn't get more than three inches off the ground. My ups are trained," says Howard. So stop ignoring your gams at the gym, and follow our guide to truly jacked legs—maybe you, too, can touch the sky.



The cape pumped up the crowd, but the Underoos gave him confidence.

1 Quadriceps: Lunge

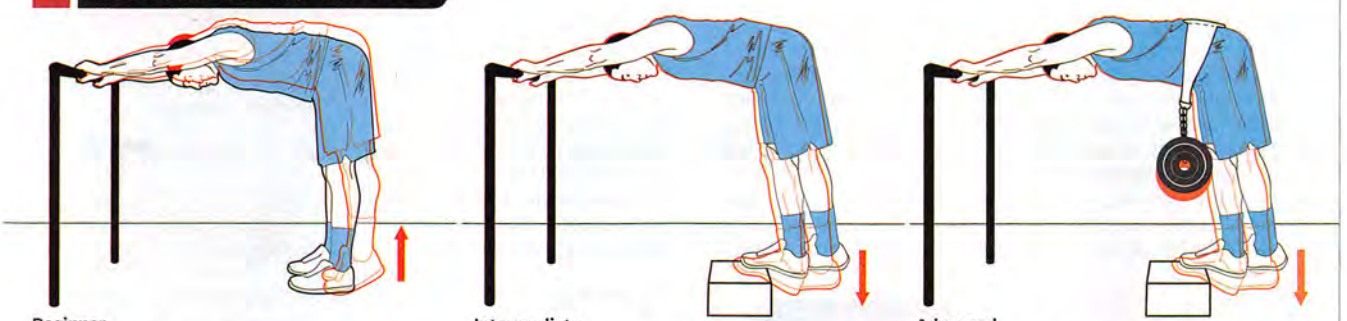


Beginner
Take a large step (three feet) forward, plant your front foot, and lower your back knee to about an inch from the ground. Push back up to a standing position, switch legs, and repeat, while simultaneously not falling on your ass. **Try:** Four sets of 10 per leg

Intermediate
Throw that lunge into reverse. Grab a medicine ball or dumbbells and take a big step backward, this time dropping the knee of the stepping leg. Drive that knee forward to stand again, switch legs, and repeat. **Try:** Four sets of 12 per leg

Advanced
Holding dumbbells at your sides, place the sole of one foot on a stability ball or bench behind you. Slowly lower front leg to form 90-degree angles with each knee. This ain't called the Bulgarian split squat for nothing. **Try:** Four sets of 10 per leg

2 Gastrocnemius: Donkey Calf Raise

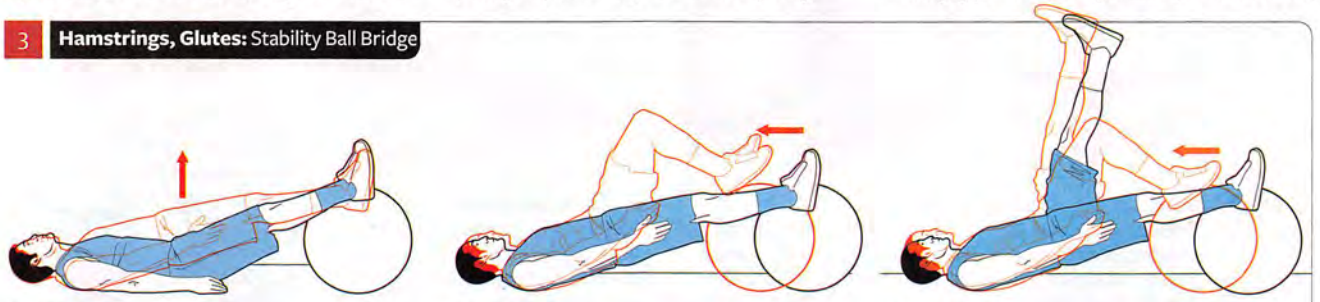


Beginner
Stand bent-over next to a railing, holding it for support. With legs straight and back flat, contract calves to rise up on your toes. Count two to lift, four to lower, and repeat. Yeah, it looks like it sounds. **Try:** Four sets of 10

Intermediate
From same position, but with a step under the balls of your feet, cross your left foot behind your right ankle, slowly lower your right heel toward the floor, then rise up as high as possible. **Try:** Four sets of 12 per leg

Advanced
Do either of the first two exercises with extra resistance, such as a dip belt, weight plates, or someone on your back. Preferably a gorgeous, spandex-clad gym girl who digs guys with exploding calves. **Try:** Five sets of 10

3 Hamstrings, Glutes: Stability Ball Bridge



Beginner
Lie on your back with your lower legs on a stability ball. Contracting your abs and glutes, press your legs into the ball to lift your hips until your body forms a straight line. Hold for three seconds, lower down, and repeat. Enjoy humping the air. **Try:** Three to four sets of 15

Intermediate
From the hips-up position, bend your knees to bring them toward your chest while rolling the ball to the soles of your feet. Slowly return to the starting position and repeat. Now, isn't this more fun than regular hamstring curls? **Try:** Four sets of 12

Advanced
This time, once your hips are up, point one leg straight up. Keep your lower back firm as you curl the ball with your other leg. Do all reps with one leg, then switch—without letting your butt hit the ground. **Try:** Four sets of 12

ILLUSTRATIONS, OLLIE BLAND

ROLL OUT

Why shell out a fortune? Dine on a DIY lobster roll!

From overwrought celebrity chef concoctions to your own mayo-sodden monstrosities, the much-abused lobster roll has had its share of indignities (and needless garnishes) heaped upon it. But when it's done right—like this recipe from Kelly's Roast Beef in Saugus, Massachusetts, voted number one in all of New England—the inherent simplicity of the mythic sandwich proves that making a great lobster roll is like making a sex tape: Less is more.



Sadly, Larry the Lobster had just one day left till retirement.

Supplies:



1.5-pound lobster · Large pot · Colander · Sea salt · 1 stalk celery · 1 oz. mayo · 1 hot dog roll · 1 oz. butter · Cast-iron pan



1. Choose Wisely

The perfect lobster roll starts with a feisty, live 1.5-pound crustacean. Gargantuan lobsters might look tasty on the Discovery Channel, but they have tough meat. Wrap the li'l fella in newspaper or seaweed and stick him in the fridge until you're ready for the party—the party where you steam him alive.



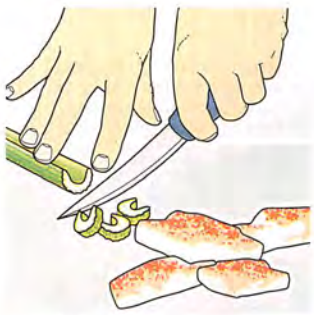
2. Death by Degrees

Fill the pot until the water just reaches the bottom of the colander, then heavily season with sea salt. When the water's steaming, unwrap the lobster and drop it in the colander. "When the lobster turns bright red, pull it out," says Jim Rataj, who has prepared thousands of the famed rolls at Kelly's.



3. Chill Out

Let the lobster cool off on the counter for five minutes; it should be just warm enough to handle. Now, with the underside of the tail facing up, grab both ends of the outer shell and snap the tail off; then remove the claws. Be careful not to squeeze out any of the lobster's juices—it's liquid flavor.



4. Mix Master

Dice 1/4 tsp. of celery, then carefully mix it together with the meat (be sure it's still chunky, not canned-tuna-like) and mayo. "Mayonnaise literally holds the lobster meat together," says Rataj. "The celery just gives a little bit of color and textural quality. I want to close my eyes and taste lobster—not mayo."



5. Bun Fun

Brush each side of the hot dog roll with half an ounce of butter and grill it in a cast-iron pan over medium-low heat. Toast both sides and press on it lightly with a spatula. When it's finished grilling, let it sit until it cools and returns to its original shape. "You don't want to fill a hot roll or it will get soggy."



6. Presentation

Fill the hot dog roll with an overflowing amount of the lobster mixture. "Arrange it so you see the various pieces of meat. It's all about eating with your eyes." To finish it off, serve with chips, a pickle, and a pint of beer. Claims Rataj: "I've never seen anyone serve French fries with a lobster roll."

Makin' Mayo

Hellmann's is good, but our homemade is better.



To make a pint of the good stuff, crack two eggs and separate the yolks into a blender.



Juice two lemons into the yolks for an acidic kick that goes great with seafood.



Blend on low and slowly pour in two cups of canola oil until the mixture thickens.



As a bonus, flavor with four manly shakes of Tabasco, or about a teaspoon.

PHOTOGRAPH, KELLER + KELLER (LOBSTER ROLL)



HOLD THE LIME

With a new breed of high-end, ultra-premium blancos, reposados, añejos, and mezcals storming the market, tequila's not just for shooting anymore.

1. Oro Azul Reposado ($40)
With a more than decent price point, this certified handcrafted artisanal reposado (tequila aged two months) is an appealing entry-level foray. Jacques Bezuidenhout, chairman of the San Francisco bartending guild, says, "When they hit it right, they do a great job and it's well worth the money."

2. Don Julio Real ($350)
An extra añejo (aged three years) from the clay soils of Cali's Los Altos region, the Real is aged in older barrels in order to prevent the wood from overpowering the natural flavors. "As elegant and refined a tequila as you can find," says Enrique Olvera, head chef at Restaurante Pujol in Mexico City.

3. Jose Cuervo Platino ($60)
"The Beverage Testing Institute gave it a 96-point rating, and they were right on," says master mixologist Shawn Sugrue. He digs this blanco (bottled from the still without any aging) so much that he issued the following declaration: "Platino might very well be the best blanco tequila on the market."

4. Dos Lunas Grand Reserve ($2,500)
Bank-breaking for a reason, it's the only commercially available extra añejo in the world aged more than 10 years. Frank Tognotti, tequila expert at Amaranta Cocina Mexicana in Los Angeles, opines, "It's rich and velveteen on the palate and certainly belongs in a snifter."

5. Gran Patrón Burdeos ($499)
A limited-production añejo, it's aged for one year in both American and French oak barrels. "This reminds me of a fine cognac, with a smooth caramel taste that isn't too sweet," says Sugrue. Tognotti, the resident big spender, gushes, "It's $70 to $80 a shot in a bar, and it's worth every penny."

6. Del Maguey Tobala Mezcal ($125)
For tequila to be tequila, it has to be made solely from blue agave, but mezcal can be blended from any species of the cactus. "First off, if you can find a good mezcal in the States, grab it. This bottle has a smokier taste and aroma than its tequila cousins," says Sugrue.

Margaritaville

The recipe for the ultimate tequila cocktail.



Juice a whole lemon and half a lime in a shaker. Drop in the lime skin; the oils add to the cocktail's flavor.



Add 1 1/2 oz. of tequila, 3/4 oz. of Cointreau, and 3/4 oz. of agave nectar, then shake with lots of ice.



Strain into an ice-filled glass and gently pour 3/4 oz. of Grand Marnier down the back of a spoon.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ASTERISM

STYLE



1. **Original Penguin** Belmont fedora, $48
2. **Rag & Bone** Connery blue seersucker blazer, $495
3. **Hudson Pocket Squares** linen pocket square, $15
4. **Rag & Bone** shirt, $185
5. **REVL** skinny tie, $45

SPRING BREAKDOWN

THE 30 STYLE ESSENTIALS YOU'LL NEED TO STAY COOL THIS SEASON.



6. The safety pin in the collar of this color-faded **Izreel** polo gives it a Pistols-flavored twist. And special vents give your anti-perspirant a much-needed assist. $175



7. Too much seersucker and, well, you'll look kind of like a dick. Go for a more subtle preppy look with one of **J.Crew**'s classic nylon striped belts. $45



8. Cool retro graphics make these **Havaianas** flops fun for your feet. Surf-inspired prints will take you to the North Shore—even if you're just headed to the grocery store. $16–$30



9. The folks at **Bond No. 9** present Coney Island, and (thankfully) they went with notes of guava and caramel instead of the more authentic scent of Nathan's hot dogs. $185



10. This green monster from **Puma** is designed for the golf course but works off the links as well, making it a must-have for your traveling and smuggling needs. $120



11. The lightweight SnowBeach aviators from **Mosley Tribes** come in a variety of eye-catching colors to go with any outfit and complexion. $225

PORTRAITS BY PHIL KNOTT STILL-LIFES BY JEFF HARRIS



12. Rogues Gallery anchors polo, $120
13. Quiksilver slim-cut jeans, $60
14. Shmoove Jamaica Punch Noir sneakers, $145



15. Look inside this Harrington jacket—a collaboration between Brit brands **Ben Sherman** and **Baracuta**—and you'll see it has something to say. $270



16. Supra is a skate shoe maker whose Skytop Chad Muska pro model has double ankle eyelets for the laces, just in case envious punks try to jack them off your feet while you're dozing. $105



17. High-end denim label **The Year Of...** is only making 144 of these sweet braid-pocketed jeans, so get your mitts on them while you can. $400



18. From Queens to Kingston, **Riddim Driven** is the Rasta's brand of choice. With prints like the one on this tee, it should be yours, too. $32



19. Quiksilver keeps this straw fedora simple with a striped hatband and narrow brim. Rock it at the beach, the bar, or any other place your head might be. $28



20. Score instant retro righteousness with these shades from **Claw Money**. Made from a rustproof nickel-copper alloy and featuring polygonal lenses, they'll keep your funk fresh. $250



21. Diesel's hoodie is great for the street-hustlin' assassin who wants to stay hidden in the shadows. Unless he picks the one in Day-Glo orange. $150

STYLING BY KELLY RAE AND BONNIE FRIEDMAN



22. **Etro** plaid suit, $2,197
23. **Gilded Age** polo, $188



24. If this shirt is any indication, designer Kean **Etro** has spent some time in the jungle. And he may have sampled some of the local flora while he was there. $335



25. This season is brimming with fedoras, so you're going to have to step it up to stand out. **Etro** obliges with this Indiana Jones-on-acid offering. $215



26. Take a bright, bold color, pair it with a rugged cut, and you'll get these rocking stable jeans from **Polo Ralph Lauren**. Now all you need is a horse! $165



27. You've caught on to the skinny shape, now upgrade the print. Contrasting stripes make this tie from San Francisco–based **REVL** corporate-drone-resistant. $45



28. David Beckham kicks it in these **Emporio Armani** skivvies. If you'd like to invite some Posh into your life, maybe you should, too. $29



29. Get into some **Gourmet** kicks and you'll be hungry for more in an hour. The brand's stylized sneaks come in killer tone-on-tone color combos. $150



30. Who needs a deadly serve or a killer drop shot? When you're rocking **Bally**'s tennis tote in perforated orange suede, it's game, set, match. $895

HAIR AND MAKEUP, VALERY GHERMAN AT DEFACTO FOR REDKEN/CUTLER.
SPECIAL THANKS TO AVA LOUNGE AT NEW YORK'S DREAM HOTEL, DREAMNY.COM. FOR BUYING INFORMATION, SEE PAGE 134.

Prime Time

Regardless of your personality, fashion sense, or lifestyle, there's a watch out there that's right for you. Here are 10 to help you bide the time in 2008.



Aeronautic
Founded in 1992 by a team of aeronautics experts seeking to create the ultimate watch for extreme conditions, **Bell & Ross** designs are prized by savvy collectors. Both rugged and modern, this **$4,000** automatic model features a luminescent dial and a 46 mm casing. Perfect for your next Antarctic expedition or night on the town.



Formal
You can't go wrong with **Breitling**, one of Switzerland's premier brands, which has been catering to watch connoisseurs for more than 100 years. At **$6,690**, the Montbrillant Olympus, with a beaded bezel and a hyper-complex movement consisting of nearly 250 parts, only needs to be adjusted once every four years.



Designer
Maybe you can't afford the entire designer wardrobe, but you can subtly show your style sense with the **D&G Dolce & Gabbana** High Security watch, **$325**. The strap is crocodile, and the face puts a stylized spin on classic components—inspired by the dials on a racecar's dashboard—all encased in sleek stainless steel.



Minimalist
Over the past few years, ceramics have become the cutting-edge material of choice for watchmakers, and the Ceramic Player by **Nixon ($1,300)** shows why. Even though the watch is weighty and substantial, the minimalist design demonstrates forward thinking without ostentation: understated bling.



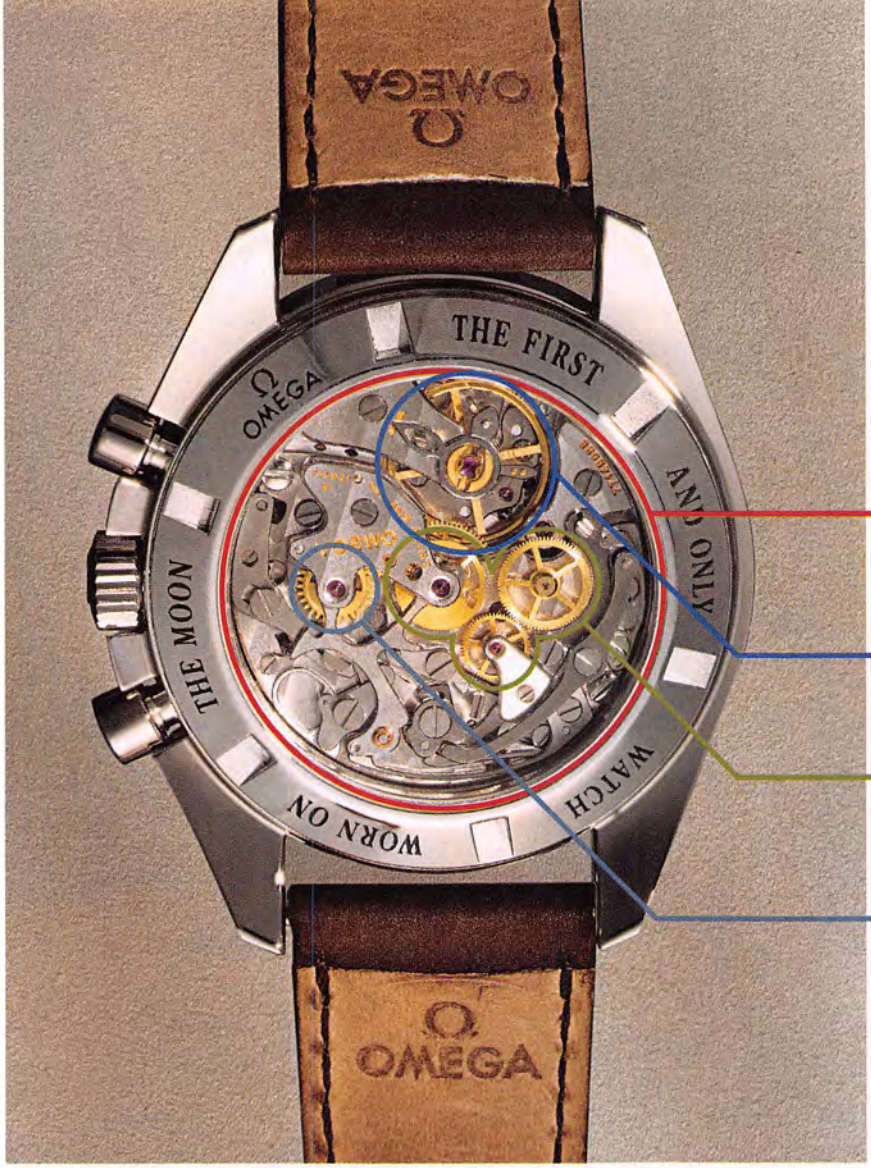
Athletic
The **Under Armour** Coach watch, **$145**, is a workout upgrade with its 50-lap memory, precision timing, and titanium case. Featuring a carbon-fiber construction and an antimicrobial strap, the Coach is water-resistant up to 100 meters, which means you can shower without worry (and your wrist won't smell like your gym bag).



Chronograph
Any respectable watch wardrobe begins with a simple, classic chronograph, such as the TT3 Chronograph, **$2,725,** from **Oris**. Inspired by Formula One racecars (Oris is the official watch of the Williams F1 team), its carbon-fiber dial and titanium case make it one of the lightest 42.5 mm timepieces on the market.

FOR BUYING INFORMATION, SEE PAGE 134.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHARLES MASTERS





Watch Anatomy

What makes a watch tick, courtesy of the first timepiece on the moon.

1. **Movement:** The guts of the watch, serving to indicate the time. It comprises the gears, springs, jewels, pinions, screws, etc.
2. **Balance and spring:** The watch's heart: a statically poised two-arm fly wheel and an ultrathin steel spring.
3. **Gear train:** The system that transmits energy to the escape wheel. As the spring unwinds, the barrel turns and drives the gears.
4. **Tourbillon:** An escapement in a rotating frame that counteracts adverse effects on a watch's precision.
5. **Mainspring:** A spring that's tightened when the watch is wound. As it uncoils, its energy drives the watch's movement.
6. **Escapement:** The mechanism that divides the energy released from the mainspring into regular units of time.
7. **Crystal:** The clear cover of the watch face, made from glass, plastic, or scratch-resistant sapphire.
8. **Bezel:** The ring surrounding the face of the watch, which may rotate and/or feature markings along its edge.

Classic
The model originally worn by *Apollo* astronaut Neil Armstrong during his walk on the moon, the **Omega** Speedmaster Moon watch, **$4,200**, has a whopping 48-hour power reserve, harking back to the days when NASA was known more for innovation than for billion-dollar boondoggles and adult diapers.



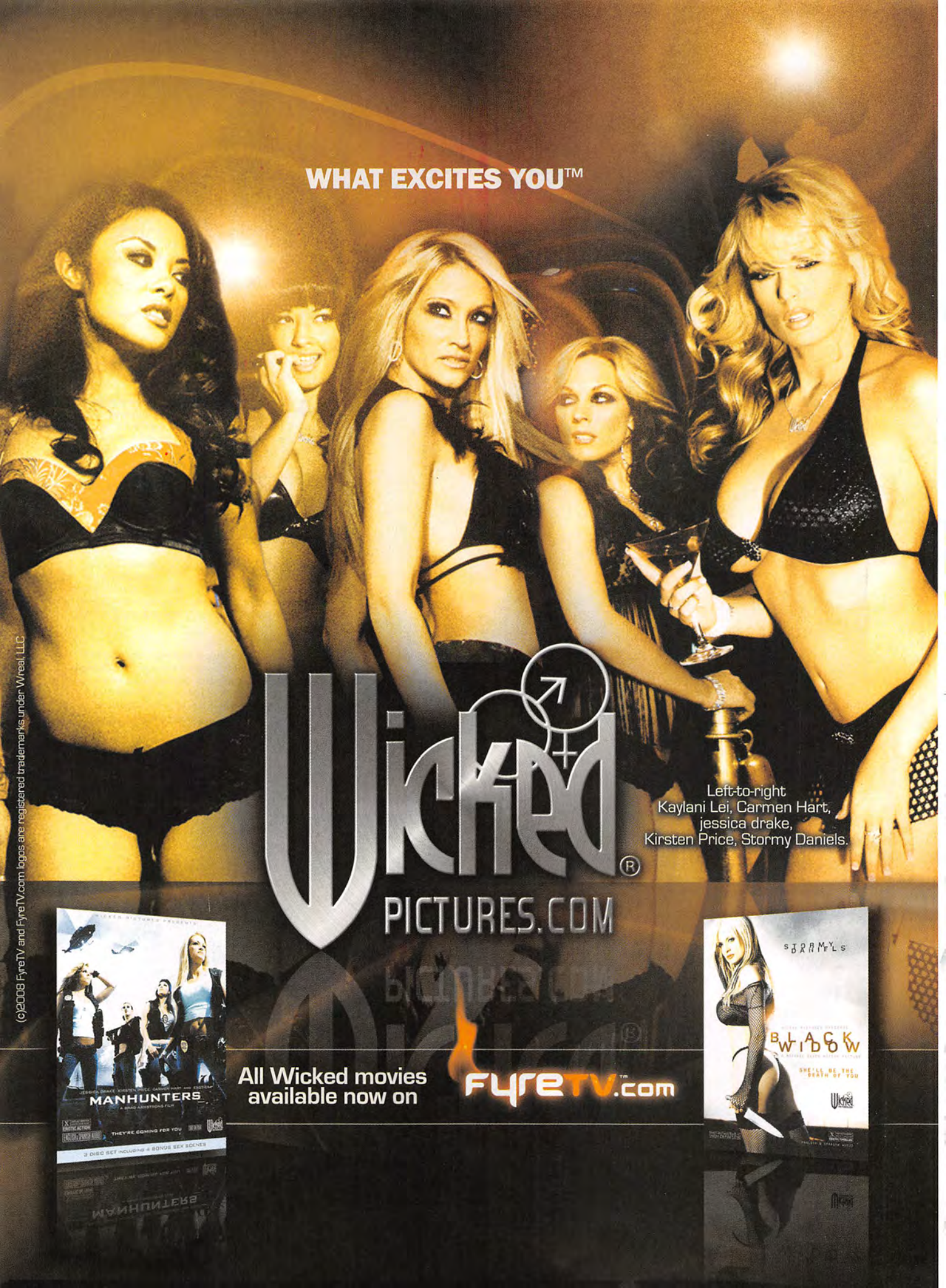
Diving
For the serious watch fetishist who doesn't have six figures to spend on a double tourbillon but isn't afraid to drop some cash, this rose-gold diving watch from **Roger Dubuis** is perfect for starting a collection. The limited-edition run of only 28 pieces helps explain the **$40,950** price tag. After all, you can't wear a BMW on your wrist.



Innovation
Having tried his hand at everything from toothbrushes to motorcycles, design legend **Philippe Starck** puts his stamp on time with the Crystal Clear series. The first watch from Starck with a translucent LCD display, its face seems to hover above the wrist, and the ergonomic strap fits all. At only **$125**, this is high art on the cheap.

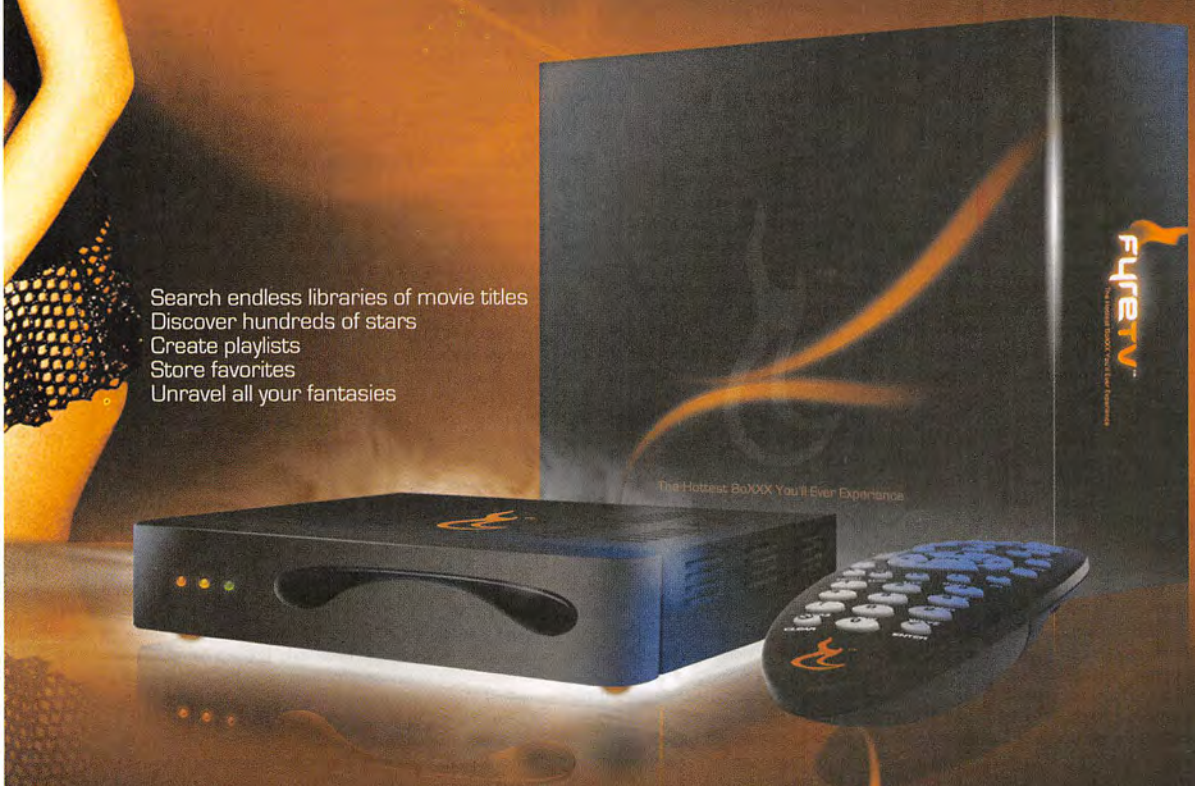


Nautical
Specifically designed for competitive sailors, the **$2,600** Aquaracer Calibre S from **Tag Heuer** combines mechanical and quartz movements, providing three different modes of operation. The revolutionary technology means you won't have to change the date until 2099, at which point we'll all be underwater anyway.


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jessica drake,
Kirsten Price, Stormy Daniels.
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p.12: *The Godfather*, Paramount/Neal Peters Collection **p.14** Law, RD/Leon/Retna Digital; Mendes, Paul Hawthorne/Getty Images; Fallon, Dimitrios Kambouris/wireimage.com; Guttenberg, Mike Guastella/wireimage.com; Silverman, Jordan Strauss/wireimage.com; Joel, Newscom; Foster, Armando Gallo **p.24:** Dog and Sutton-Brown, AP Photo (2); surprised woman, Mareen Fischinger/Getty Images; beer closeup, Getty Images; Mickey Mouse, Michael Germana/Everett Collection; Cowell, Everett Collection; cross, crossmp3player.com; poker chips, Paul Eekhoff/Getty Images; bullets, Christopher Stevenson/Getty Images; target, Dwight Eschliman/Getty Images; plane, Airbus; MMA, Chris Ryan/Corbis **p.26:** Barker: head shot, Carlos Diaz/infphoto.com; face, Newscom; podium, Stephen Morton/Getty Images; with mike, Mark davis/Getty Images; cat, Jane Burton/Dorling Kindersley/DK Images; Goldberg: head shot, Thos Robinson/Getty Images; at podium, Will Ragozzino/Getty Images/Newscom; Oscar, Evandro Inetti/ZUMA Press; *Hollywood Squares*, NBC/Foto Fantasies; Fox: head shot, Jim Spellman/WireImages; face, Andreas Rentz/Getty Images; gown, Maria Tama/Getty Images; plane, Rainer Dittrich/Getty Images; *Lost*, ABC; Louis-Dreyfus: head shot, Charley Gallay/Getty Images; face, Jeff Vespa/WireImages; gown and podium, Stephen Shugerman/Getty Images; Kramer and Seinfeld, Columbia Tristar Television/courtesy of Everett Collection (2); wood background, Image Source Pink/Getty Images; Trendstopping, John Lund/Getty Images **p.28:** *Survivor* and *Lullaby*, courtesy of Anchor Books **p.32:** Cruise, Nancy Kaszerman/ZUMA Press; Vigoda, courtesy of Everett Collection; McCain, Joshua Lott/Getty Images; Burns, FOX/Neal Peters Collection; Lee, Larry Marano/Retna Ltd **p.35:** *Grand Theft Auto*, Rockstar Games (5) **p.36:** Morgan, Mitchell Haaseth/NBC/Everett Collection; *Harold & Kumar*, Jamie Trueblood/Newline Cinema (2); *Baby Mama*, K.C. Bailey/Universal Pictures (2); *Made of Honor*, Peter Iovino/Columbia Pictures Industries (2); *Narnia*, Murray Close/Disney Enterprises, INC; *Speed Racer*, Warner Bros. (2) **p.39:** Inset, Getty Images **p.44:** Death Cab, Autumn de Wilde; Kooks, Timothy Norris; Mraz, David Shrigley; Madonna, Steven Klein; guitar, Ingram Publishing/Superstock Limited/Alamy; McGraw, Joe Thomas/Getty Images; Def Leppard, Andrew McPherson **p.48:** BMX cyclers, AFP/Getty Images; *Gears of War 2*, Epic Games & Microsoft Game Studios; Super Bowl, Polaris; kilt, AP Photos; Obama, Alex Wong/Getty Images; Clinton, Frank Micelotta/Getty Images for Logo; McCain, Peter Kramer/Getty Images; McConaughey, Hotshots Worldwide/Splash News; Garner, Everett Collection; Stone, Jeffrey Mayer/WireImage; Franz Ferdinand, Perou/Camera Press/Retna Ltd; Button, willrolls.com/Alamy; cake, CM Children/Alamy; wallpaper, Joshua Sheldon/Getty Images; Matlock, Viacom Productions/Everett Collection; TV, courtesy of SONY **pp.63-64:** (clockwise from bottom left) Clinic Archive (2), Bill Diodato, Moodboard/Corbis, Bill Diodato, Moodboard/Corbis; woman, Vincent Besnault/ZEFA/Corbis **pp. 67-70:** Hamilton at bat, Thomas E. Witte/Getty Images; Hamilton as teen, Scott Halleran/Allsport/Getty Images; Armstrong, Michael O'Neill/Corbis Outline; Travolta, Mike Blake/Reuters; Santana, Michael Buckner/Getty Images; Washington, bequest of Mrs. Benjamin Ogle Taylor; collection of the Corcoran Gallery of Art/Corbis; Jay Laprete/Reuters **pp.73-75:** Rocky in meat locker, United Artists/Neal Peters Collection; running upstairs, on sidewalk, on beach, through park (insets), United Artists/courtesy of Everett Collection (4); Rocky in ring, United Artists/Lester Glassner Collection/Neal Peters Collection **pp.84-96:** *Anchorman*, DreamWorks/Neal Peters Collection; *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, *Taxi Driver*, *Wild Things*, *Superbad*, *The Bridge Over the River Kwai*, *Dr. Strangelove*, *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Stand by Me*, and *Easy Rider*, Columbia/Neal Peters Collection (9); *Borat*, *Edward Scissorhands*, and *Rocky Horror*, 20th Century Fox/Neal Peters Collection (3); *Kingpin*, *To Live and Die, 2001*, and *Rocky III*, MGM/Neal Peters Collection (4); *Big Lebowski*, Polygram/Working Title/The Kobal Collection; *Spinal Tap*, Embassy/Neal Peters Collection; *Animal House*, Universal/courtesy Everett Collection; *The Deer Hunter*, *Fast Times*, and *Scarface*, Universal/Neal Peters Collection (3); *Platoon*, United Artists/courtesy Everett Collection; Reitman, Anita Bugge/WireImage; Carter, Albert L. Ortega/WireImage; McKay, Lester Cohen/WireImage; Tarantino, Chris Asford/Camera Press/Retna; *Glen or Glenda*, Screen Classics/Neal Peters Collection; *Showgirls*, *Barbarella*, and *White Heat*, courtesy of Everett Collection (3); *Dirty Harry*, Warner Bros./The Kobal Collection; *Cool Hand Luke*, *Robin Hood*, *Clockwork Orange*, *Mad Max*, *Jeremiah Johnson*, *Bonnie and Clyde*, *Bullitt*, *Deliverance*, *Matrix*, *10*, and *Unforgiven*, Warner Bros./Neal Peters Collection (11); *Sid and Nancy*, Zenith-Initial/Goldwyn/Neal Peters Collection; *Starship Troopers*, Tri-Star/Neal Peters Collection; *Empire Strikes Back*, Lucas Films/Neal Peters Collection; *Alien*, 20th Century Fox/The Kobal Collection; *Texas Chainsaw*, Bryanston/Neal Peters Collection; *Nightmare on Elm St.*, New Line/courtesy Everett Collection; *Night of Living Dead*, Walter Reade Organization/Neal Peters Collection; *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*, *Annie Hall*, and *Midnight Cowboy*, United Artists/Neal Peters Collection (3); *Top Gun* and *The Godfather*, Paramount/Neal Peters Collection (2); *Badlands*, Warner Bros./Photofest; *Withnail and I*, Handmade Films/The Kobal Collection; *Akira*, Akira/The Kobal Collection; *The Departed*, Warner Bros. courtesy Everett Collection; *Reservoir Dogs*, *No Country for Old Men*, *Kill Bill*, and *City of God*, Miramax/Neal Peters Collection (4) **p.98:** Tarantino, Dan Burn-Fonti/Corbis Sygma; Oldman, Slater, Hopper, and Arquette, Warner Bros./Neal Peters Collection (4); Scott, Ron Phillips/Morgan Creek Productions **pp.99-102:** In theater, Pitt, Walken, Hopper, and pillow fight, Warner Bros./Neal Peters Collection (5); Oldman eating, Ron Phillips/Morgan Creek Productions; Illustration, Walken, Walter McBride/Retna Ltd.; Arquette, Jeff Krantz/Film Magic; Tarantino, Nicolas Guerin/Corbis; Slater, RD/Leon/Retna Ltd; Hopper, Jeff Daly/WireImage **pp.104-105:** *The Dark Knight*, Warner Bros./Photofest; *Iron Man*, Michael Muller; *Pineapple Express*, Columbia Pictures; *Step Brothers*, Gemma La Mana; Untitled *X-Files* movie, Diya Pera; *Indiana Jones*, David James; Hancock, Sony Pictures/Everett Collection; *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2*, Phil Caruso/SMPSP; *Meet Dave*, Getty Images; *Get Smart*, Tracy Bennett; *The Incredible Hulk*, Michael Gibson; *Bangkok Dangerous*, FOX; *Tropic Thunder*, AFP/Getty Images; *Hellboy II*, Egon Endrenyi **pp.108-109:** Iron Man, Zade Rosenthal; Luke Cage, Black Widow, She-Hulk, Emma Frost, and Thor, courtesy of Marvel Entertainment, Inc (5); Captain Canuck, ® © Richard Comely 2008; Nixon, Hard Boiled & 1990, 1992 Frank Miller Inc. and Geof Darrow; Fury, Sandman, and Green Arrow, courtesy of DC Comics (3); Savage Dragon and Flaming Carrot, courtesy of Image Comics (2) **pp.114-118:** Two FBI escorts, Chip East/Reuters; Cefalu, Robert Sabo/*New York Daily News*; Bonanno, Gambino, Colombo, Genovese, Lucchese, and Castellano crime scene, AP Photo (6); Gotti, Reuters **p.121:** Sunset, John Tobin; hunter, photolibrary.com; resort, Barbara Kraft/oneandonlyresorts.com; race car, James Russell USA Racing Drivers School 2008; Casino Lisboa, photolibrary.com; building, Corbis **p.123:** Howard, Jesse D. Garrabrant/NBAE/Getty Images **p.124:** Lobster, Tom Grill/Corbis; pot and blenders, graficart.net/Alamy (2); colander and celery, Dorling Kindersley/Getty Images (2); salt, Image Source Pink/Getty Images; mayo, Stockfood creative/Getty Images; hot dog, Foodcollection/Getty Images; butter, Photodisc/Getty Images; pan, Judith Collins/Alamy; eggs, David Cook/Alamy; lemons, Keith Leighton/Alamy; Tabasco, mediablitzimages Limited/Alamy, oil, James Worrell/Getty Images; Miracle Whip, courtesy of Kraft Foods **p.125:** Cocktail, Jupiter Images; Cointreau, drink Alamy King/Alamy; lime, Dick Makin/Alamy; lemon, Andrew Paterson/Alamy **pp.127-131:** Cologne, courtesy of Bond No.9 N.Y.; green bag, courtesy of Puma; fedora, courtesy of Etro **p.146:** Kruger, Robert Englund/Everett Collection; mole, Helene Rogers/Alamy; Skittles, courtesy of MARS Snackfood U.S.; nurse, Roy McMahon/Corbis; Grim Reaper, Toledano/Getty Images; Meatwad, First Look Pictures/Everett Collection; Neville, Fougere Eric/Corbis Kipa; Barton, Stephanie Cardinate/People Avenue/Corbis; *Ghostbusters*, Columbia Pictures Television/Everett Collection.

Where to Buy

SPRING BREAKDOWN

Page 126: Original Penguin Belmont fedora, $48, originalpenguin.com; Rag & Bone Connery seersucker blazer, $495, Barneys New York stores; Hudson Pocket Squares linen pocket square, $15, hudsonpocketsquares.com; Rag & Bone shirt, $185, Scoop boutiques; REVL tie, $45, at revl.net. **Page 127:** Izreel polo, $175, Blue in Green store, New York; Havaianas flip-flops, $16-$30, havaianasus.com; Bond No. 9 Coney Island fragrance, $185, select Saks Fifth Avenue stores; Puma weekend bag, $120, puma.com; Mosley Tribes SnowBeach aviators, $222 (each), mosleytribes.com; J.Crew belts, $45 (each), jcrew.com. **Page 128:** Rogues Gallery anchors polo, $120, Bloomingdale's; Quiksilver slim-cut dark wash jeans, $60, Quiksilver stores; Shmoove Jamaica Punch Noir white sneakers, $145, Odin boutique, New York. **Page 129:** Ben Sherman and Baracuta collaboration jacket, $270, benshermanusa.com; Supra Skytop sneakers, $105, suprafootwear.com; The Year Of... jeans, $400, theyearof.net; Riddim Driven T-shirt, $32, riddimdrivenclothing.com; Quiksilver straw fedora, $28, quiksilver.com; Claw Money sunglasses, $250, 80spurple.com; Diesel hoodie, $150, diesel.com. **Page 130:** Etro plaid suit, $2,197, etro.it; Black Sheep and Prodigal Sons silver stick pin, $210, Barneys New York stores; Gilded Age polo, $188, gildedage.net. **Page 131:** Etro shirt, $335, and fedora, $215, etro.it; Polo Ralph Lauren jeans, $165, ralphlauren.com; REVL tie, $45, revl.net; Emporio Armani underwear, $29, Macy's; Gourmet In Your Face sneakers, $150, Dave's Quality Meat, New York; Bally tennis bag, $895, 310-271-3310.

PRIME TIME

Page 132: (clockwise from top left) Bell & Ross timepiece, $4,000, Kenjo boutique, New York; Breitling Montbrilliant Olympus timepiece, $6,690, breitling.com; D&G Dolce & Gabbana Time High Security timepiece, $325, D&G boutiques; Oris TT3 Chronograph, $2,725, Tourneau stores; Under Amour Coach timepiece, $145, underarmour.com; Nixon The Ceramic Player timepiece, $1,300, nixonnow.com. **Page 133:** (clockwise from top left) Omega Speedmaster Moon timepiece, $4,200, omegawatches.com; Roger Dubuis, $40,950, rogerdubruis.com; Starck Crystal Clear timepiece, $125, select Fossil stores; Tag Heuer Aquaracer Calibre S timepiece, $2,600, tagheuer.com.

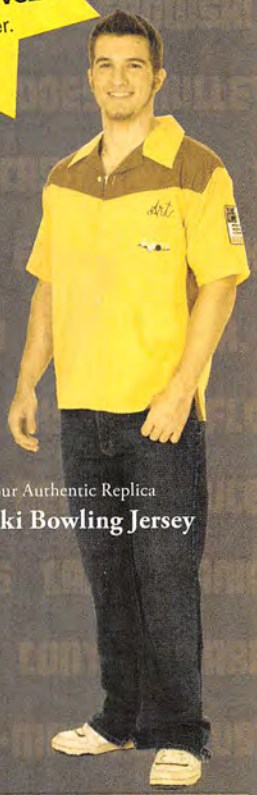
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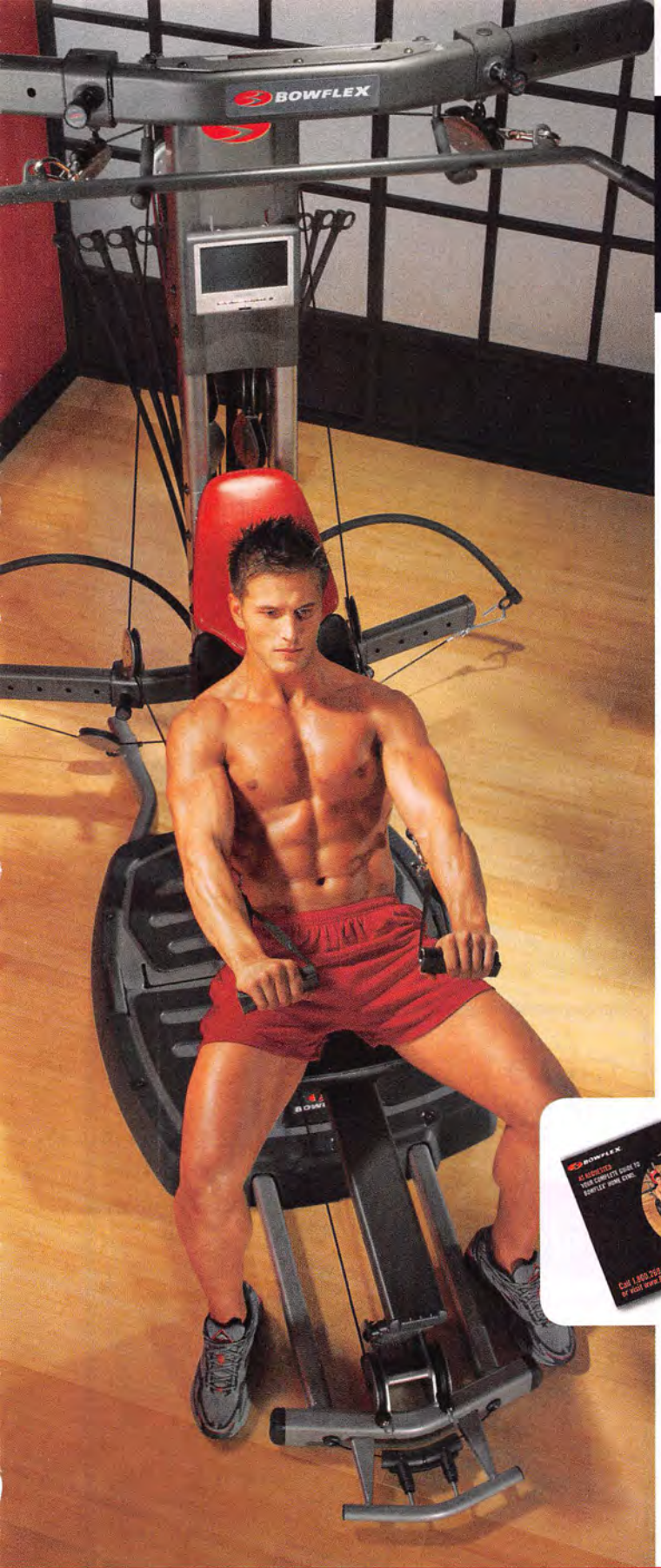
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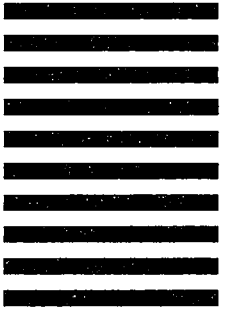
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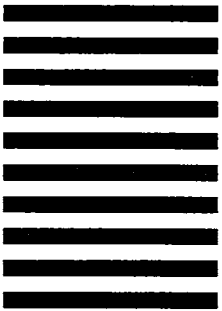
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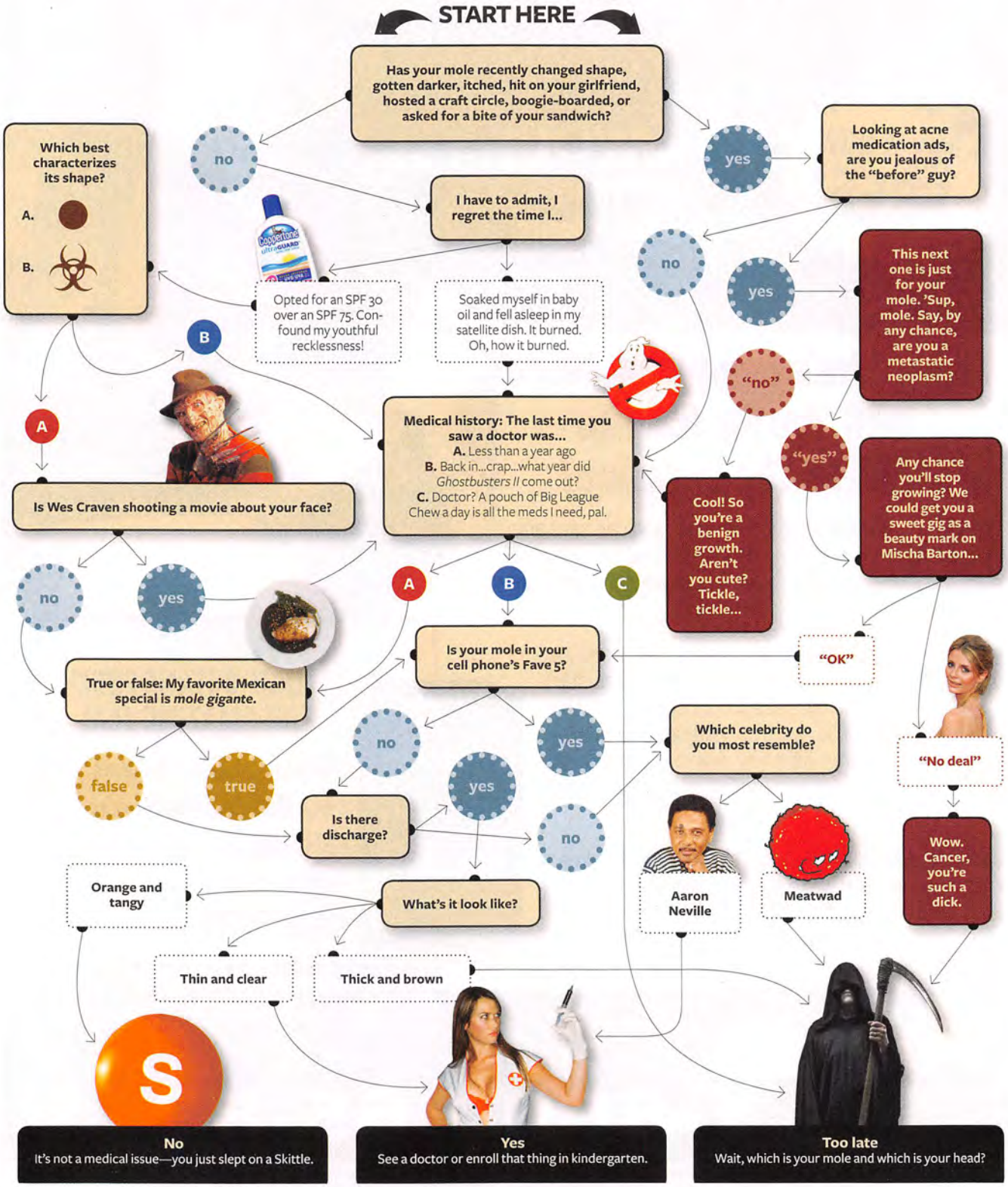
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